



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

September 2024



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I am delighted to welcome everyone back to another busy school year. A very warm welcome to all of our new Primary 1 pupils and their families and welcome back to all of our returning pupils. Primary 1 children have enjoyed meeting their Primary 7 buddies who have been helping them settle in to school routines. Their interactions have been so positive and their learning conversations animated. Our main aim over the past couple of weeks has been to settle everyone back into school life. Some children may still be a little anxious which is understandable, however please let us know as we are here to help and support you.

Entering/Exiting the School

A reminder of the timings are below:

P1 and **P2** can come straight into the school building from 8.55am.

At 2.55pm they will be dismissed from school. Can you please ensure that your child knows which gate they have to leave from. Our colour coded gates make this easier for the children to remember.

Yellow Gate **Car Park Gate**
Red Gate **Bike Shed Gate**
Blue Gate **Top Gate**

P3-P7 come into the playground as normal in the morning. They will be dismissed at 3.00pm and may leave from any gate.

Staff are at the gates at 2:50pm to ensure that children leave safely at the end of the day.

Uniform

It has been a pleasure to see all children in school uniform since the start of term. The wearing of a school uniform promotes the identity of the school in the local community and helps create an ethos of sharing and pride in the school.

Please label all children's clothing clearly. Lost property is cleared out at the end of each term

Breakfast Club

- Breakfast club is **free** for everyone who attends.
- It runs daily from **8.25am** until **8.45am**.
- Children are not allowed entry to the school building prior to 8.25am.
- Children attending breakfast club enter the school via the dining hall door.
- The cook prepares breakfast items which are served to children at their table by our support assistants.
- A limited menu is provided – cereal, toast or fruit with milk or water.
- Children remain seated in the dining hall until 8.45am. They are then directed to their designated playground areas.



House Captains

Our houses align with our school motto '**let's grow together**' and are named after trees which can be found in our school grounds. Our P7 House Captains (C) and Vice Captains (VC) have been elected. Speeches and voting took place on Friday and the results announced on Monday.

Rowan House – Lewis Bancroft (C) Elise Brand and Cairo Pollock (VC)

Silver Birch House – Haylie Gibson (C) Tshawny Lipenga and Jake Spence (VC)

Willow House – Ross McFadyen (C) Ayla McCurdy and Ben Brown (VC)

Pine House – Sohpie Douglas (C) Akillez Morgan and Kali Davidson (VC)

Primary 1 pupils have now all been allocated their house too. Children are rewarded for good behaviour, for displaying the school values and for helping round the school. Our captaincy team will be organising a whole school fun day on Thursday 26th September. Children should wear their P.E. kit to school.



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

September 2024



Weekly Assemblies

Our weekly whole school assemblies take place on a Friday. Each assembly is themed eg Reading Schools, Children's Rights, Action Poverty, STEM. We present awards to children from each class based on our school values, we celebrate birthdays and someone is presented with a Golden Positivity Balloon.

Over the course of the session each class will also showcase their learning during a Friday assembly. Parents/carers are welcome to the class assemblies. They take place at 1.20 on the following dates;

1.11.24	Primary 7
8.11.24	Primary 6
7.2.25	Primary 5
21.2.25	Primary 3
21.3.25	Primary 2
9.5.25	Primary 4
16.5.25	Primary 1

Open Session

We are delighted to be able to welcome our parents/carers to an open session in the school on Wednesday 4th September at 2.00pm. You will get the chance to visit your child/ren's class and join them in their class based activities. Our pupils love the opportunity to share their learning experiences. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible.

School Improvement Plan 2024-2025

Every session we write a school improvement plan. This helps us to continue to move forward in a strategic and focused way. The key outcome is to ensure we are providing the best possible learning experiences and opportunities for our children. Our priorities this year are:

*** Improvement Priority 1**

- To introduce concept teaching and fluid groupings in numeracy throughout the school.
- To use Numicon resources across all aspects of Numeracy and Mathematics to support teaching and learning.

*** Improvement Priority 2**

- To develop a school calendar including learning for sustainability events taking place over the course of the session.
- To further develop the use of outdoor learning across the school in order to positively impact on the wellbeing of all, children's engagement and enthusiasm for learning across the curriculum.

*** Improvement Priority 3**

- To develop a Learning Community approach to the teaching and learning of equalities and diversity.
- To increase staff and pupil knowledge of equalities and diversity.
- To develop an equalities and diversity calendar with events to celebrate equalities and diversity across the school.
- To link SLC skills framework equalities and diversity.

*** Improvement Priority 4**

- To train all staff in Emotion Coaching and implement across the school.
- To raise awareness of Emotion Coaching with parents.
- To achieve SLC Attachment Accreditation for all 6 pledges.

The plan is available on the school website.

A copy of our Standards and Quality report for session 2023-2024 is also available on the school website.

School Admin

Could I please remind you that if you change your phone number, or emergency contact details change, please make sure that you inform the school office and give them a note of your new number. It is also important that we have an up to date email address as the majority of our communications with parents and carers are via email.



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

September 2024



Parent Council

Everyone is welcome to attend Parent Council meetings. If you would like to find out more about the work of the Parent Council, have any questions or queries you would like taken forward by the Parent Council or if you would like to join, please contact the chairperson Emma McCurdy on neilslandparentcouncil@gmail.com

Our Parent Council are in the process of organising a Family Fun Night on Wednesday 11th September. Last year, we welcomed almost 300 people into the event. The feedback on the night was extremely positive. At the moment however, **we are unlikely to be able to run the event as we do not have enough parent helpers.** We only have 4 people from the Parent Council who have signed up to help. The success of events like this is dependent on the support of our school community. **Can you spare an hour of your time?** If you could offer support in any way at all it would be greatly appreciated. Every little helps. **Please contact neilslandparentcouncil@gmail.com by Wednesday 4th September.** The Parent Council will then make a final decision about whether the event can go ahead.

Our Parent Council will be organising Halloween events for all pupils on Thursday 31st October. More information will follow.

P5 FUNdamentals of Music

Our P5 pupils are enjoying a block of music lessons delivered by a specialist music teacher. These lessons will take place weekly for 20 weeks.



Clubs

P1-3 pupils are invited to join our after school dance club. It will take place on Friday afternoon from 3.00-4.00pm and begins this coming Friday, 6th September. All stages will have the opportunity to attend the dance club over the course of the session. The club is run by Caitlin, a local dance teacher.

Our lunchtime Eco club will resume this week. Mrs Kennedy and one of our P7 pupils, Sophie, are also running a sewing workshop for P5- P7 pupils . It will run on a Tuesday lunchtime, starting on 10th September.

Lesley Scanlan, our Active Schools co-ordinator will continue to work closely with us over the course of the session. She is currently running fun fitness sessions on a Friday morning at 8.25am for P4-7 pupils. Our pupils will also run a series of clubs over the course of the session. More information will follow soon.

Parental Engagement

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Natasha White back to Neilsland Primary School this session. She will continue to work with the staff team and support parents/carers and families in a range of ways. This could include: phone calls, informal drop-in sessions, workshops and building confidence/positive relationships with children. All sessions will be relaxed, provide suggestions on given topics and will give parents/carers time to meet others, share experiences and ideas. She will be running a series of numeracy workshops which will begin over the coming weeks. They will be offered to P1-4 pupils and parents. More information will follow soon.

Parents Portal

We use email and 'Parents Portal' as our main methods of communication. Our new families and Primary 1 parents have all had information home about how to create an account. If you are having trouble, or are unsure of anything, please contact the school office. As always, our newsletter is emailed and published on the website. If you require paper copies of anything please let the office know. On our website you will find any extra documents relating to our school. The strong, positive partnerships we have with our families are so valuable and we look forward to working with you throughout this year. A calendar of dates is available on Parents Portal.

Parent/Carer Consultations

Our parent/carers consultations are scheduled to take place on Thursday 10th October. All bookings will be done via Parents Portal.



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

September 2024



Money Matters

South Lanarkshire Council are keen to provide as much support as possible for all our families. Please see the information below on Money Matters should this be of support to you:

- **We offer free, confidential and impartial advice - we can help check your benefit entitlement, assist with the claims process, challenge decisions and represent you at Social Security appeal tribunals. For debt issues we look at your financial circumstances, contact creditors, discuss options and give budgeting advice. Contact number: 0303 123 1008. Our Telephone Advice Line offers a similar service specifically aimed at pregnant women and families with young children. Contact number: 01698 453154.**



Mobile Phones

We strongly discourage children from bringing their mobile phones to school as we cannot be held responsible if they are damaged or stolen. If your child does bring his/her mobile phone to school, it must be switched off at all times whilst in the building and in the playground. Any messages that you need to get to your child during the school day should be delivered via staff in our school office.

Dogs at School Gates

We are delighted that many of our children walk to school and are accompanied by their dog. Can we please ask that dogs are kept a safe distance away from school gates to ensure that all children can access gates freely without coming into contact with any dogs. We have a number of children with allergies and some who are scared of dogs. Thank you for your support.

Disabled Parking

We had a number of complaints about our disabled parking bays being used by non-blue badge holders last session which resulted in people who were genuinely entitled to use the disabled spaces being unable to do so. Our Junior Road Safety officers will be monitoring the situation and will be doing regular spot checks.

Scottish Maths Week 23rd -29th September

Maths Week Scotland 2024 promotes maths for children and families throughout Scotland. This year Maths Week Scotland is happening from 23rd to 29th September. The theme this year is 'Maths Tales'. In school the children will be engaged in a range of activities to teach Maths through stories eg. Hooray for Fish and Fractions in Disguise.

Throughout Scotland there are a range of free in person and online events organised to make Maths fun for families. Please click on the click below to view when and where these events are taking place in Scotland.

[Families - Maths Week Scotland](#)



Maths Tales Contest
This exciting interactive online competition makes learning maths fun for children and families. It's a chance to test your maths knowledge and win prizes.



MWS Daily Challenge
Each morning during Maths Week Scotland, a puzzle will be shared with all children in Scotland. It's a chance to test your maths knowledge and win prizes.

UNCRC Act and Rights Respecting School Award

The UNCRC Act is now law in Scotland. The UNCRC Act requires public authorities to protect children's human rights in their decision-making when delivering functions conferred by Acts of the Scottish Parliament. Neilsland Primary School is a **Bronze Rights Respecting School**. We are working hard to achieve the Silver Level of this award. Each class is currently working on creating their class charter, a set of rules, promises or guidelines that children and teachers have agreed on for the classroom. They're created to help children understand that they have certain rights in the classroom.



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

September 2024



We also talk about rights at our assemblies and Mrs Marnie is responsible for this. Each assembly has a focus, and the children discuss how they can make Neilsland a rights based school. We have listed below our rights assemblies and their focus. We would like to welcome parents/carers to come along to our assemblies on the following dates:

Friday 30th August 1.20 pm **Article 12** The right to be heard
Friday 6th September 1.20 pm **Article 13** The right to express yourself
Friday 20th September 1.20pm **Article 29** The right to education that develops my abilities
Friday 4th October 1.20 pm **Article 27** The right to have a proper home, food and clothing
Friday 17th January 1.20 pm **Article 15** The right to have friends
Friday 14th February 1.20 pm **Article 31** The right to relax and play
Friday 13th June 1.20 pm **Article 2** The right to be free from discrimination

As we work towards our silver award, the children will be creating a rights group. We would like to invite parents/carers to join this group. We will be holding short fortnightly meetings on a Thursday morning 9.15 am If you would like to be part of this group, please telephone or email the school and Mrs Marnie will be in touch.

Water in Class

Children are encouraged to sip plain water in class as research has shown that this increases their concentration when learning. This should be in a plastic sports bottle to avoid spillage. Please note that **juice, fizzy juice and flavoured/sparkling water are not permitted in the classrooms** as they leave a terribly sticky mess if they are spilled and may spoil someone's work. Water is also served at lunchtime and bottles can be refilled over the course of the day if required.



P7 Music Tuition

We are delighted to announce that our P7 pupils will receive ukulele tuition this session on a weekly basis from Tam Reilly, a music instructor from Calderside Academy.



Families Connect

We are offering all our Primary 1 Parents/Carers the opportunity to come in to school and work with your child during a workshop called Families Connect. The workshop will run for 6 weeks each Monday from 16/9/24 to 4/11/24 at 3.15 - 4.15pm with an introductory information session on 9/9/24. The 6 themed workshops will be delivered in school by our Specialist Support Teacher Julie Cowan and will focus on the introduction of adaptable activities, techniques and games that you can do with your child at home to support their learning in 3 key areas-

- Social and Emotional development
- Literacy and language development
- Numeracy



This term pupils will be given the opportunity to apply for the very important job of becoming a Reading Champion for their class. Pupils should let us know why reading is important to them and why they think they would be a great class Reading Champion. Application forms will be given to children who wish to apply after our Reading Schools assembly on Friday 13th September. It is Roald Dahl Day on Friday the 13th September too and pupils can, if they wish, bring a Roald Dahl book to school to share with their classmates or an object associated to one of his books. They will be taking part in class activities related to some of his many magical stories.



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

September 2024



Equity Newsletter

Attendance and Punctuality

Over the past 2 sessions, the school has participated in a pilot project to improve attendance across the local authority. The project identified different strategies and resources to support families with improving their children's school attendance. In Neilsland, our attendance overall percentage improved and this year we are aiming for 95% total attendance, and we continue to ask for your support to achieve this. If you would like any support or further information about the project, please contact Mrs Marnie.

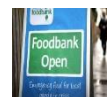
Punctuality continues to be monitored on a daily basis in school. Being late 10 minutes per day is 50 minutes of lost learning time and over four weeks this equates to 3 hours and 20 minutes of lost learning. We understand that sometimes children can find the transition from home to school difficult and we ask that families contact the school so that we can put supports in place.

Participatory Budget

We will be looking for your support again this year with participatory budgeting. Participatory budgeting is when the whole school community makes decisions about how to spend money to help and support children and families in our school community. The spending should help to reduce the poverty related attainment gap. 5% of our Pupil Equity fund (£3,430) has been allocated to participatory budgeting. Our new Pupil Council will be working with the children to decide on how this money should be spent. If any parents/carers have any ideas on how this money could be spent, can you please email the office office@neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Foodbank

We continue to receive donations from the Foodbank, however this has now been reduced to monthly. We understand that family circumstances can change suddenly and if the school can support you with this, please do not hesitate to contact the school for help and support. Alternatively, we replenish the food stock outside in our equity shed and this is open to both families and community to use during school hours.



Chromebook 'Borrow and Bring Back' Service - ICT Lending Library

Once again this session we are offering the using of Chromebooks for the children to complete homework tasks. Each class will have a night that they can borrow a Chromebook to complete homework tasks and activities.

The 'Borrow and Bring Back' service is there for everyone to use at any time. We would kindly ask that if your child is borrowing a Chromebook or iPad they return it the next day so that another child can use.

Any questions about this please email office@neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk



'Autumn Clean'

If you are planning an Autumn clean, we are always looking for donations of unwanted Christmas presents and items that we can use in the Christmas shop. These can be brought into school anytime and would be much appreciated.

Uniforms and Halloween Outfits

We have a range of free uniforms on our 'Rake and Take' rail and we ask parents/carers to please help themselves to anything their children may need. Halloween is fast approaching, and we have also put out a range of Halloween outfits on our rails. We are an Eco school, and if you have any Halloween outfits that could be reused, please hand in at the office and we will add them to our 'Rake and Take' rails.

We will continue to post updates and information regularly on X [@neilslandps](https://twitter.com/neilslandps) and the school website www.neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Kelly