



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

November 2024



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I cannot believe that we are fast approaching Christmas! The weeks have gone past so quickly. All of our classes are practising hard for our Nativity and Christmas concert and preparations are well underway for the Christmas Fayre.

Outdoor Clothing

As we fast approach the winter months, the weather has started to take a turn. PE continues to take place outside once a week and each class also participates in outdoor learning sessions. The children are outside at playtime and lunchtime, even in wet weather, therefore jackets and suitable footwear will be needed.



Parent Council

Our Parent Council meetings continue to take place termly and we are always keen to welcome new members. 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 neilsland.ps.pc@gmail.com.

Our Parent Council ran very successful Halloween parties last month in school. The children had a wonderful time. Thank you.

Eco Committee

Our Eco committee organised a climate change and sustainability fun morning on Friday 11th October. All pupils engaged in a variety of activities, developing a range of skills across all curricular areas.



Clubs

We currently have a dance club running for our senior pupils. This is very well attended. Different stages are attending in blocks. All classes will be offered the opportunity to attend.

Pupil led clubs will start soon. Applications have opened and we look forward to offering a range of opportunities during lunchtimes.

Our Eco Committee continue to meet on a weekly basis. We currently have over 30 members attending. They are working extremely hard on their 9th green flag application.

Mrs Kennedy runs a weekly lunchtime sewing club for P5-7 pupils. This will run throughout the session.

Mrs Hare runs a weekly football club for senior pupils. It takes place on a Wednesday from 3.00-4.00pm.



Lesley Scanlan, our Active Schools Co-ordinator, runs fun fitness sessions on a Friday morning at 8.25am. The sessions are currently for our P1-3 pupils and will switch to our P4-7 pupils from 22nd November.

Lesley has also been working with our P6 pupils for a number of weeks, training them as playleaders. They have been developing their leadership skills and learning a range of games and activities that they can implement with our younger pupils.





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Football

Mrs Hare will be taking a group of pupils to represent the school at a football tournament on Wednesday 20th November. The team played extremely well last time and we wish them the best of luck for next week.

Equalities and Diversity

Equalities and Diversity is one of the priorities in our school improvement plan this session. We had a whole day visit from Chefe Chebe as part of Black History Month. He led a whole school assembly then did a series of workshops with every class which included stories, African drumming and games. It was a day to remember and we really hope that we will be able to welcome him back to the school again. Chefe Chief himself said that Neil Island is, '**the best wee school in Scotland**'.

P6 Trip

Our P6 pupils have been learning about The Victorians. They showcased their learning at their class assembly on Friday 8th November and will soon enjoy a trip to Summerlee Museum where they will participate in a Victorian workshop.



You + Me Multiply workshops

Mrs Marnie and Mrs White recently ran a series of maths workshops for our P1-4 parents. The workshops aimed to develop adults' number knowledge, build strategies for problem solving and increase confidence in counting, structure of number and the four operations in order for them to better support their children's learning at home. The workshops were well attended and will run for P5-7 parents after Christmas.

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;

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

We will be having a Christmas assembly on the last day of term. It will be delivered by Rev. Alan Johnston at 1.20pm. Parents/carers are welcome to attend.



P6 and P7 Rugby

Our P6 and P7 pupils are receiving weekly coaching at the moment from Hamilton Rugby Club. They are developing many new skills. Some of our pupils already attend rugby and they are getting the opportunity to showcase their talent.



Wee Wobblers

Sophie Anderson's dad (P7) is part of the Wee Wobblers team who deliver sessions on building confidence and teaching children how to ride a bike. He will be coming into school on Friday 22nd November to work with P1. Sophie will help her dad run the sessions.



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Partnership

It is important to us in Neilsland to create strong links within our community. Over the last couple of sessions we have welcomed St Peter's Primary to our class assemblies and we have attended theirs. We have also organised some sporting events. At the end of November the P6 and P7 pupils from both schools will take part in an indoor basketball tournament. We are also linking up later on in the session for a football tournament and World Book Day activities.

Panto

We are going to have a Christmas panto in school on Friday 6th December (am). The title of the panto is Sleeping Beauty. There will be no cost for the children.

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 11th December. Christmas lunch menus and order forms will be discussed and completed in school.



Christmas Shop

We are looking for donations for the 'Children's Christmas Shop' (new, unused items please – toiletries, gift sets, candles etc). The Christmas shop will be open from Monday 2nd December to Friday 6th December. All items range from 50p to £5. The pupils can buy small gifts for family, friends and pets and have these gift wrapped and labelled as a surprise to take home. These gifts are excellent value for money. We keep prices as low as we can so that the children get good value for money. Donations can be sent into the office anytime.

We will also have a selection of children's gifts available this year. **Any donations of unwanted toys/books in good condition would be appreciated.**



Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre this year will take place on Friday 29th November. All parents, carers, family and friends are welcome to attend from 1.30pm – 4.00pm.

Our Parent Council are looking for any donations of **bottles** for the bottle stall or any **raffle prizes**. These can be handed in to the school office anytime.

We are having a crazy hair day on Friday 15th November. We are not asking for a monetary donation but instead, we would appreciate a bottle or donation for the Christmas fayre.

Please contact the Parent Council if you are interested in having a stall at the fayre.

Each class will make something that can be sold at the Christmas Fayre. P4 are leading this. All items made to sell will be priced at 50p. We have decided not to 'personalise' the items and try to make them all look the same. This will hopefully give them a better chance of selling everything.

As well as the above, children will be able to buy personalised baubles, get glitter tattoos, have their face painted and purchase a selection of food and drinks.

We are mindful that this is a very busy and expensive time of the year so have organised a range of **free** activities, games and crafts as part of the day.

We cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support. **All funds raised from the fayre and the shop are spent on the children** eg. games/resources for the classroom, outdoor learning equipment, play equipment for P1, treats for parties, gifts for P1-3 children, gardening equipment, funding extra-curricular clubs, trips and the whole school pantos.



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Gifts

As we approach Christmas we are aware that many families wish to share their gratitude with staff in the form of gifts and treats. Whilst we welcome the kindness and thought that goes in to this and are lucky to work with families that appreciate us, we feel that appreciation can be shown in other ways and ask that NO gifts are given. Should you wish to thank a particular member of staff then we ask that children complete a drawing or write a small card. We are very conscious of the 'Cost of the School Day' and also the fact that family budgets are tight at this time of year, and we do not want families feeling under pressure to purchase gifts. Please remember you give us the best gift everyday by sending your children to school for us to teach.

Class Hampers

As part of our Christmas activities, each class will be making a themed hamper. We will have a **Be Bright Be Seen day on Friday 22nd November**. On this day, can we ask children to bring in a small item for their class hamper (if you can). Items can be brought to school from Monday 18th November. We will then hold a raffle with the FANTASTIC HAMPERS as prizes. We will sell raffle tickets for the class Hampers in school. We will draw the Hampers on Wednesday 18th December. We hope you will help us in our fundraising efforts and thank you for your support.

Hamper Themes

- P1 Savoury Christmas
- P2 Red Christmas
- P3 White Christmas
- P4 Cosy Christmas
- P5 Relaxing Christmas
- P6 Multicoloured Christmas
- P7 Sweet Christmas



Christmas Performances

Our Christmas shows will take place on Tuesday 10th December and Thursday 12th December. Both will take place at 1.30pm. More information will follow.

Primary 7 Transition

Transition for our Primary 7 pupils is well underway with Calderside Academy. All pupils and parents/carers had the opportunity to attend an open evening in September. The feedback from this event was very positive.

Miss Burns, a business studies teacher, has been down to work with all pupils to create a transition passport. A group of pupils have also worked with Mrs Reid from the English department over a number of weeks, developing their writing skills. Mrs Reid was delighted to join us last week to watch P7 showcase their learning at their class assembly.

Julie Calder, Head Teacher from Calderside Academy will be coming to the school on **Tuesday 19th November from 3.00pm - 4.00pm**. This is an open session and she will be there to answer any questions that you might have about Calderside and/or transition. You are more than welcome to bring your child along if they have any questions that they would like to ask. This is an excellent opportunity for you to find out about what Calderside has to offer.



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Equity

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Participatory Budgeting

We recently voted for the best way to spend our participatory budget. Results will be announced soon.



Halloween Costumes and Christmas Jumpers

The school is very proud of our achievement of 8 Eco Green Flags and our ongoing work on recycling and reusing a range of resources. For the past couple of years, we asked if you had any unwanted Halloween costumes that could be reused and the response from parents/carers has been fantastic. Due to the great response, we are asking if you have any Halloween costumes, please could you donate to the school. Also, if you have any Christmas jumpers that could be reused, could you please hand in at the office, and we will put them on the 'rake and take' rails.

Foodbank

We continue to receive donations from the Foodbank on a fortnightly basis. 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 daily and this is open to both families and community to use during school hours.



Period Products

A gentle reminder that we offer **free** period products to those pupils requiring them. The products can be accessed from the toilets within the school. If extra products are required during school holidays, please contact the school office.

Action Poverty Week

All classes took part in Action Poverty Week, engaging in activities to raise their awareness of finance in real life contexts and about ways to support families in the local community. They shared their learning during the weekly Friday assembly.

Attendance and Punctuality

In Neilsland, we monitor punctuality and attendance on a daily basis. This year we are aiming for **95% total attendance**, and we continue to ask for your support to achieve this. **We are currently sitting at 94.63%**. All schools within the learning community are working together to ensure a shared approach to attendance. Last week we sent out the poster 'Calderside Attends'. 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.

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.





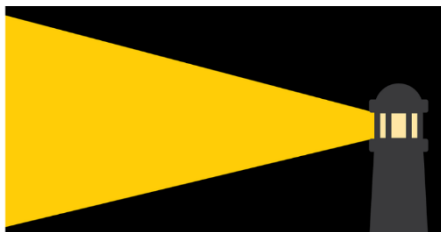
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Next week is Scottish Book Week (18th-24th November) and our class Reading Champions have been busy planning lots of fun reading activities for everyone to take part in and celebrate our love of books together. Families will be invited into school to work with their children on book based activities. An email has already gone out informing you of dates and times. The children would love you to join us in our book celebrations.

Book Week Scotland 2024



We are very much looking forward to [Book Week Scotland 2024](#), taking place on 18-24 November.