



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

January 2025



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We are all well settled into Term 3. Our pupils have been working hard and we have lots of new learning experiences planned. It's a very busy term! Our classes have all updated their blogs. Please remember to check them, our feed on X and the school website for lots of up to date information about school events and pupil's learning experiences at Neilsland.

Outdoor Clothing

As we move from the winter months into Spring, the weather remains cold and wet. 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 contribute enthusiastically to many aspects of school life. They supported our very successful Christmas Fayre. They are planning Valentine's discos on Friday 14th February. P1-3 disco will take place from 1.45pm-2.45pm and P4-7 disco from 4.00pm-5.30pm. There is no cost to attend. The discos will only be able to go ahead if there are enough people to help run the discos. Unfortunately, a few events have had to be cancelled as there have not been enough people to help out. If you can spare even half an hour, it would be very much appreciated.

Attendance and Punctuality

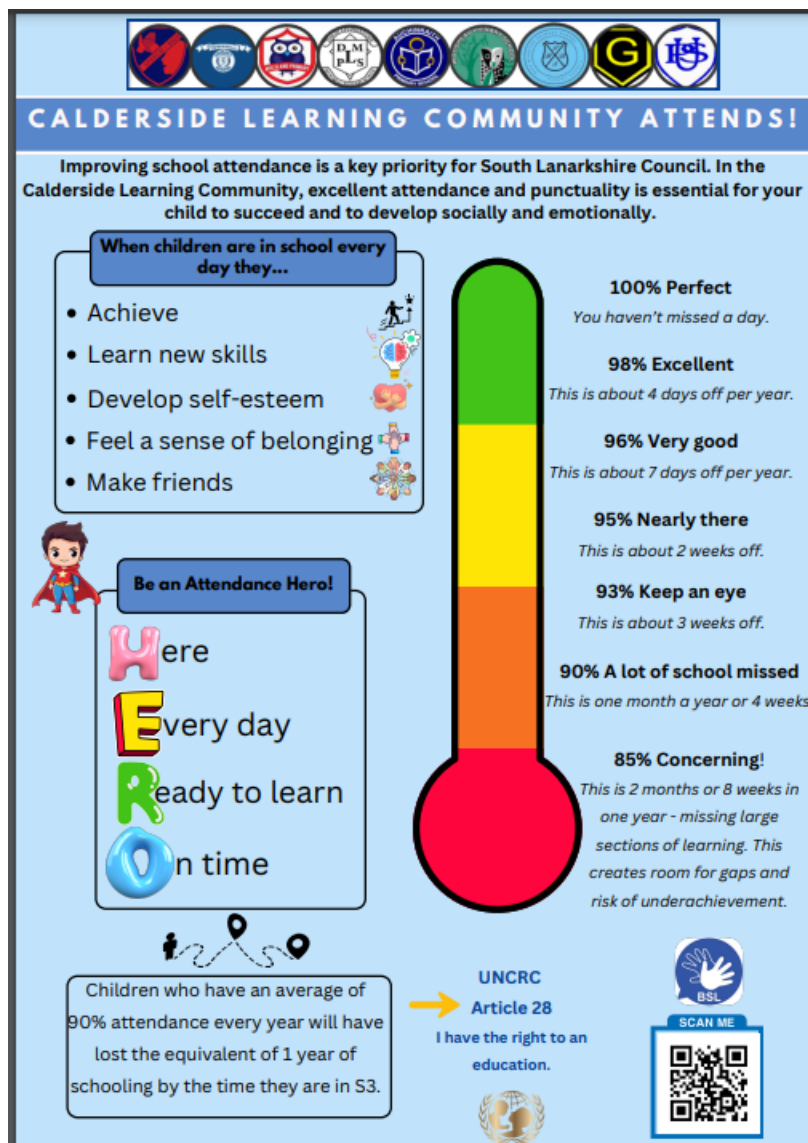
Article 28 from the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that:
Every Child has the right to an education.



One way Neilsland Primary implements this article is through closely monitoring punctuality and attendance. Our aim for this academic year is to have an attendance rate of 95%. The school has a **responsibility to monitor attendance closely** and when a child's attendance falls below 90%, we will make contact with parents/carers to discuss the reasons for this and to provide support to improve a child's attendance at school.

If a child's attendance falls under 90%, letters will be sent home and follow-up phone calls will be made. Over the next month, the school will be looking again at sending further letters home if your child's attendance has fallen below 90% or if there has been limited improvement in attendance. If there has not been an improvement in a child's attendance the school will implement the next stage of South Lanarkshire Council's attendance procedures. Our current attendance as a school is: **94.1%**

We recently sent out the poster below as part of a Calderside Learning Community approach towards the promotion of excellent attendance.



The following table shows the number of children who have been late for school on a monthly basis this session.

No of children late August	6
No of children late September	10
No of children late October	11
No of children late November	18
No of children late December	10



We also count the number of times each child is late within a month and we keep a running total of this. From August '24 to December '24 the school recorded **225 lates**. This information is passed onto South Lanarkshire Council.

Lockerbie Manor

Our P6 and P7 pupils were due to attend their residential week at Lockerbie Manor on Monday 27th January to Friday 31st January. Unfortunately, Storm Eowyn caused some damage to the centre and resulted in a loss of power so the trip has had to be rescheduled. It will now take place **from Monday 24th February to Friday 28th February**. We know that this is hugely disappointing for the pupils as they were so excited. Thankfully though, they won't have too much longer to wait and we will have a few treats lined up to make up for the disappointment.

Open Session

We will be holding an open session on **Tuesday 25th February for P1-P5 pupils**. You will be able to come along at 2.00 - 2.50pm to join in with your child/ren's class based activities. It is a great opportunity to work alongside our pupils and see the resources and teaching methods used in the classroom.

Our pupils love the opportunity to share their learning experiences. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible. Due to the rescheduling of Lockerbie Manor, the open session for P6 and P7 pupils will take place on **Tuesday 18th March** at 2.00-2.50pm.



Easter Fun Day

We are going to have an Easter fun morning for all classes on **Friday 4th April**. This will be organised and run by our Primary 7 House Captains. There will be lots of fun activities planned and the children can wear casual clothes to school.

P4 Swimming

Swimming starts for our P4 pupils on **Tuesday 11th March** at the Hamilton Water Palace. Pupils should bring a towel, swimming trunks/costume and £1 (returnable) coin for a locker. The school has a supply of towels and swimwear for use if required.

Talent Show/Danceathon

'Neilsland's Got Talent' will take place on **Friday 14th February**. The Primary 6/7 class have organised and will present the show. Pupils have been working hard on their performances and we are looking forward to showcasing all their talent!



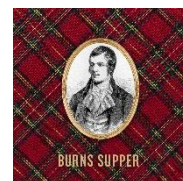
P6/7 are also organising a Danceathon to tie in with Comic Relief on **Friday 14th March**.

Extra Curricular Clubs

- The sewing lunchtime club is run on Tuesdays by Sophie D (P7) and Mrs Kennedy.
- Eco club runs on a Wednesday lunchtime.
- Our pupils are running a range of clubs over the next couple of terms including basketball, dance, gymnastics, tennis, art, Polish, chess, multisport, ball games and choir
- Dance club is on a Friday with Caitlin, it's great fun and is currently open to P1-7 pupils and their parent/carer.
- Fun fitness will resume on Friday 7th February with Lesley Scanlan, our Active Schools Co-ordinator for P1-3 pupils at 8.30am

Burns Supper

We will enjoy haggis, neeps and tatties washed down with one of Scotland's favourite drinks, Irn Bru, at our rescheduled Burns Supper on the 31st January!



P6 Euroquiz

Some of our P6 pupils will be taking part in P6 Euroquiz at Newton Farm Primary School on Thursday 20th March. Euroquiz is an annual project open to all P6 pupils across Scotland, which sees teams of four working together to broaden their knowledge of Europe and the wider world. Subjects covered include languages, history, geography, culture and European affairs. Heats take place in from February to March, with the winning teams progressing to the National Euroquiz Final in June.

Online Safety

We often send out an email to all parents/carers regarding online safety

In the interest of pupil online safety, I would ask you to have an "MOT" of your young person's online presence, if they have one, as soon as you can possibly do so. (WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok)

It has come to our attention that several of our pupils have been engaging in an inappropriate and offensive manner online.

At the same time I would also ask you to have a serious discussion with them about making sure any posts they make are both legally and morally responsible.

This continues to be an issue. I urge all parents/carers to check their child's phone/technology.

Maths Fluid Groupings

Priority 1 of the school's improvement plan is to increase attainment in numeracy. All staff have participated in training in implementing 'Fluid Groupings' and we have been visited by the Development Officer (Gillian Gray) from South Lanarkshire Council to support our school further with this journey. Fluid groupings is a teaching strategy that provides opportunities for children to challenge themselves in maths. The teacher will teach the maths concept using a range of resources and the children select their follow-up challenge i.e. Silver, Gold, Platinum or Titanium. Mrs Gray has loved her visits to our school and she has been impressed by how engaged our children are in their maths work.

The children are loving this way of teaching and learning as they have the opportunity to personalise their own learning and from early assessments it is having a positive impact on attainment.

You+Me Multiply Parents/Carers Workshops

We are delighted to be running another set of You+Me Multiply workshops for parents/carers this term. The workshops have a maths focus where Mrs White and Mrs Marnie discuss how place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division is taught in our classes. In addition, they show games that can be used to practise the maths concept.



United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

During the inset day in November, all staff engaged in South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) training on the implementation the UNCRC articles. Further training will take place during the February inset day to extend our knowledge of the 54 articles. This is a key priority for our school and we openly discuss the articles with our children on a daily basis. Each class has created a 'Class Charter' and this underpins the classroom ethos. During this term, Mrs Marnie's assemblies will focus on the following rights:

Article 15 The Right to have Friends

Article 31 The Right to Relax and Play



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week takes place from **3rd – 7th February**. Mrs Mark and Miss May have organised a series of activities for all pupils over the course of the week to support mental health and wellbeing including a visit from ST PHNX, biscuit and blether stations, yoga and mindfulness,

Basketball Tournament

Some of our P6 and P7 pupils will take part in a basketball tournament with St. Peter's Primary School. We link with St. Peter's for various events over the course of the session and value our strong partnership. We attend one another's class assemblies, have a football tournament organised for later in the session and are joining up to celebrate World Book Day in March.

P7 transition

Transition for our P7 pupils is fully underway. There have been several visits from Calderside Academy teachers to work with the class. There was an open evening for pupils and parents prior to Christmas and some of our P7 pupils have taken part in a writing programme with Mrs Reid from Calderside. The Primary Ambassadors have also visited a couple of times and Mrs Calder, the HT at Calderside, offered a drop in session for pupils parents after school in November. A UNCRC transition event for all P7 pupils within Calderside Learning Community is currently being planned. It will take place on **Monday 24th March**.

Hazel Kelly, a Youth Family and Community Learning worker will also be coming in to work with our P7 pupils, delivering workshops to support transition to high school.



Sustainability Day

Our Eco Committee are planning a sustainability day on **Thursday 20th March**. They will plan a variety of lessons and activities which they will implement with all classes over the course of the day.

Attachment Accreditation

We are delighted to announce that we have successfully achieved our **fourth pledge 'Recognise Behaviour as Communication'** through South Lanarkshire Council's Attachment Accreditation Process.

The Education Resources Attachment Strategy was launched in March 2019.

The aim of the strategy is to promote better experiences of attachment for South Lanarkshire's children and young people and to ensure that all education practitioners understand how positive relationships can make a difference to outcomes.

Equity Update

Foodbank

We continue to offer our foodbank in our 'Rake and Take' shed and please feel free to take what you need. We also urge families to contact the school if they need further support and all phone calls are treated confidentially. Due to the weather conditions, it is sometimes difficult to put the uniform 'Rake and Take' rail out and if you are needing to replace uniforms, please come into school and we will organise this for you.



Participatory Budgeting

The winning option was astro turf for the MUGA, but sadly we are unable to move forward with this option due to the potential cost being tens of thousands of pounds. The Pupil Council and Mrs Marnie met last week to discuss how best this money could be used and together they decided to use the money to purchase additional ICT and playground equipment. They are currently looking at additional ipads or chromebooks for class.

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:

The Money Matters Advice Service is a free and confidential service that helps people living in South Lanarkshire or working for South Lanarkshire Council claim benefits and deal with debt.

We can give you free unbiased advice on a range of benefit and debt issues and will work with you by discussing all your options and come up with a plan together. We can help with:

- the cost-of-living crisis including advice on energy arrears



- gas and electricity top up vouchers
- debt advice including mortgage and rent arrears and dealing with creditors
- benefits advice
- budgeting

Contact number: 0300 029 0041. Our Telephone Advice Line also offers support specifically aimed at pregnant women and families with young children.

Christmas School Shop

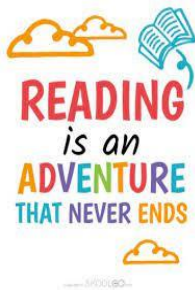
We are aware that Christmas has just passed but we are always thinking ahead to next year. The children love visiting our Christmas Shop. We provide a range of gifts and gift wrap them for the children to give to their special people. We are always collecting items for the Christmas Shop and if you have any unwanted gifts or any of the following, please can you hand in to the school office and we will keep for the Christmas Shop in December:

Books

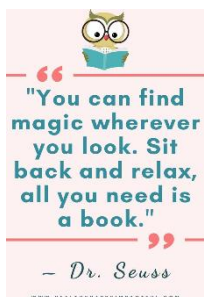
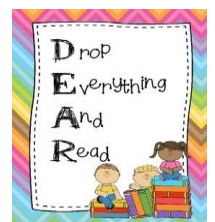
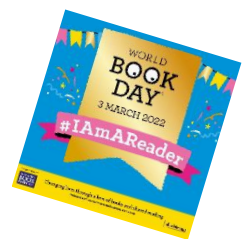
Toys

Candles and scented items e.g. bath bombs

Scarves, gloves etc



We have all been enjoying lots of reading for pleasure activities and experiences. We have celebrated Roald Dahl Day, taken part in a Christmas Book quiz and our Reading Champions planned lots of fun reading activities for everyone to enjoy in November during Scottish Book Week, the children loved having their family and friends come along to their class to join in the fun. The next job for our class Reading Champions is to meet and plan events for the classes to celebrate World Book Day in March to promote our love of reading at Neilsland. They will present this at our Reading Schools Assembly soon and will share their plans with Parents/Carers too. As we start the new year, the class Reading Champions want to encourage all the children to read for pleasure as often as they can in school and at home. Reading a book can help you relax, empathise with others, and escape into a new world for a short time! In school they are encouraging everyone to have DEAR time regularly (Drop Everything And Read). The Reading Champions wear their "ask me what I'm reading" lanyards to encourage book chat and recommendations and place recommendation bookmarks in books they have read and enjoyed in their class Book Buzz area. They will also be asking for donations of



cushions and blankets that families are not using that can be used in our Book Nook areas around the school. These are cozy, calm areas where pupils can enjoy reading. The Reading Champions had the important job of selecting new books from the Travelling Book Fayre that they thought their classmates would enjoy. These were put into the class Book Buzz area and have been very popular, great choices were made! Staff have been working together with their Learning Community colleagues to develop a consistent approach to the teaching and learning of equalities and diversity, devising a series of lessons based on engaging new books bought by the schools. We look forward lots of reading for pleasure opportunities in the coming months.

