



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

September 2025



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 into 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 **8.15am** until **8.45am**.
- Children are not allowed entry to the school building prior to 8.15am.
- 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 last Friday and the results announced on Monday.

Pine House - Peyton Cutler (C) and Adam Rice (VC)
Willow House - Kaiyah Mupunga (C) and Oly Sukri (VC)
Rowan House - Jacob Bowman (C) and Alexa Cameron (VC)
Silverbirch House - Hatrison Hughes (C) and Ariana Hardman (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 25th September**. Children should wear their P.E. kit to school.



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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;

7.11.25	Primary 7
14.11.25	Primary 6
20.2.26	Primary 5
13.3.26	Primary 3
8.5.26	Primary 4
15.5.26	Primary 2
5.6.26	Primary 1

Open Session

We are delighted to be able to welcome our parents/carers to an open session in the school on **Thursday 18th 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 2025-2026

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 train all staff in SLC's VCPA (Visual, Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract) approaches to Numeracy and Mathematics.
- To embed the use of 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.
- To engage in practical-based STEM activities via participation in the SSERC programme 'Developing a sustainable approach to STEM'.
- To actively engage in internal directed CLPL and self-directed CLPL in Science and STEM across Early, First and Second level.

*** Improvement Priority 3**

- To provide all staff with the opportunity to power up their pedagogy through inhouse collegiate led training to increase knowledge and understanding of;

- Learning intentions and success criteria
- Effective questioning
- Effective feedback
- Effective differentiation
- Metacognition
- Creativity

- All staff will have the opportunity to engage in professional dialogue in review and evaluation of pedagogical changes,

*** Improvement Priority 4**

To further develop a consistent Learning Community approach to the teaching and learning of equalities and diversity.

To continue to increase staff, pupil and parent/carer knowledge and understanding of equalities and diversity.

To maintain and implement an Equalities and Diversity Calendar with events to celebrate equalities and



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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 Fiona Adam on neilslandparentcouncil@gmail.com



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

P4-7 pupils are invited to join our after school dance club. It will take place on Friday afternoons from 3.00-4.00pm and begins this coming Friday, 12th 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.

Lesley Scanlan, our Active Schools co-ordinator will continue to work closely with us over the course of the session. She will start Friday Fun Fitness Club for Primary 4,5,6 and 7 from 8.30 am – 8.55 am on the following dates:

Friday 3rd October 2025

Friday 10th October 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Friday 31st October 2025



P5-7 football club with Mrs Hare will resume on **Wednesday 10th September** and will run from 3.00pm-4.00pm.

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 pupils and parents.

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 9th October**. All bookings will be done via Parents Portal.

P7 Transition

Calderside Academy are hosting a family showcase for our P7 pupils and parents/carers on Thursday **18th September, 4.30–6.30pm**. It's a chance to explore the school, meet staff, and get a flavour of what makes Calderside such a vibrant and welcoming community. Places should be booked by Thursday 12th September (details on the poster sent out previously). Each child can bring along up to two adults.

Mrs Reid from the English department at Calderside will also be coming in to work with some of our P7 pupils over a number of weeks.



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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.



Maths Week Scotland (22/9/25 – 28/9/25)

Maths Week, Scotland is held from 22nd September to 28th September. In school the children will introduce this at assembly on Friday 19th September where we will look at Maths, and the children will be asked to explore the theme of Get Wild with Maths and share their learning at the following assembly. Within the wider community Summerlee are holding a free event for families and I have included the link below:

<https://mathsweek.scot/events/summerlee-museum-family-maths-trail-2>

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.



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UNCRC/Children's Rights

We continue to focus on the UNCRC Rights during our weekly assemblies and in the months of August, September and October, we will be talking about the following rights through different themes.

Date	Focus	Article
22/8	Children's Rights – Attendance/Punctuality	<u>Article 28</u> Right to Education
29/8	Participatory Budgeting	<u>Article 12</u> – Respect the Views of Children
5/9	Reading Schools	<u>Article 29</u> Goals of Education
12/9	Participatory Budgeting Feedback	<u>Article 12</u> – Respect the Views of Children
19/9	Maths Week Scotland Begins 22/9	<u>Article 29</u> Goals of Education
3/10 2 pm	Maths Week Scotland Feedback/Challenge Poverty	<u>Article 27</u> Adequate standard Of living <u>Article 29</u> Goals of Education
10/10	Black History Month	<u>Article 2</u> Non-discrimination <u>Article 30</u> Children from minority or indigenous groups

Class Charters

At the beginning of each session the classes work together with their teacher to create their class charter which sets the ethos of the class for the year ahead. The classes select the rights that are most important to them, and these become the focus of classroom life. I have included some of the Class Charters.



Playground Charter

Last session, we worked with adults and children to create a school playground charter which the children follow in order to make our playground a safe and happy place. The playground charter forms restorative conversation with children about showing respect and responsibility in the playground. Copies of the playground charter are displayed throughout our school and in our classrooms.



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Playground Charter

Aim

At break times everyone in our school has the right to relax, play and take part in a range of activities.

In our playground we will grow together by:

- showing respect to our peers, adults and property.
- always using kind words.
- including everyone in games and sharing toys.
- keeping everyone safe and happy.

Our Support Pathway to grow together.

5 minute reflection time beside an adult - restorative chat.

↓

Immediate reflection on the benches.

↓

Speak with SLT

↓

Loss of playtime and or lunch time.

↓

Phone call home



let's grow together

Article 31

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.



Reading Schools

This term our pupils have been given the opportunity to apply for the very important job of becoming a class Reading Champion. At our first Reading Rocks assembly on Friday, last year's Reading Champions shared their experiences and what is involved in being a class Reading Champion with everyone. We talked about the qualities required to promote reading for pleasure at Neilsland and anyone who wishes to apply should let us know why reading is important to them and why they think they would be a great class Reading Champion. Application forms were given to children who wish to apply after our assembly and should be returned to Mrs Brock by Friday 12th September. Thank you to our Reading Champs from last session, you did a fantastic job, and we look forward to meeting our new Reading Champions!



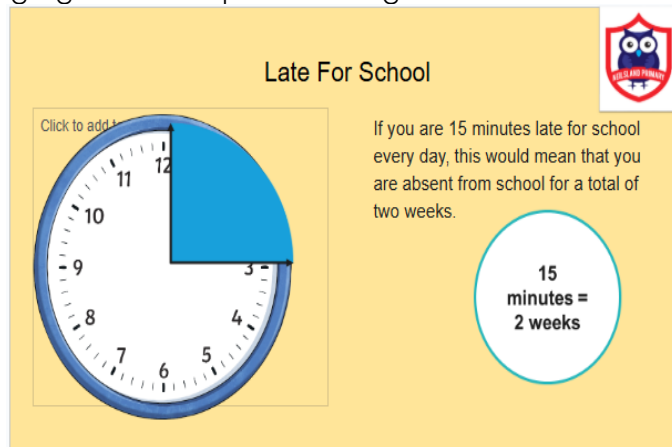
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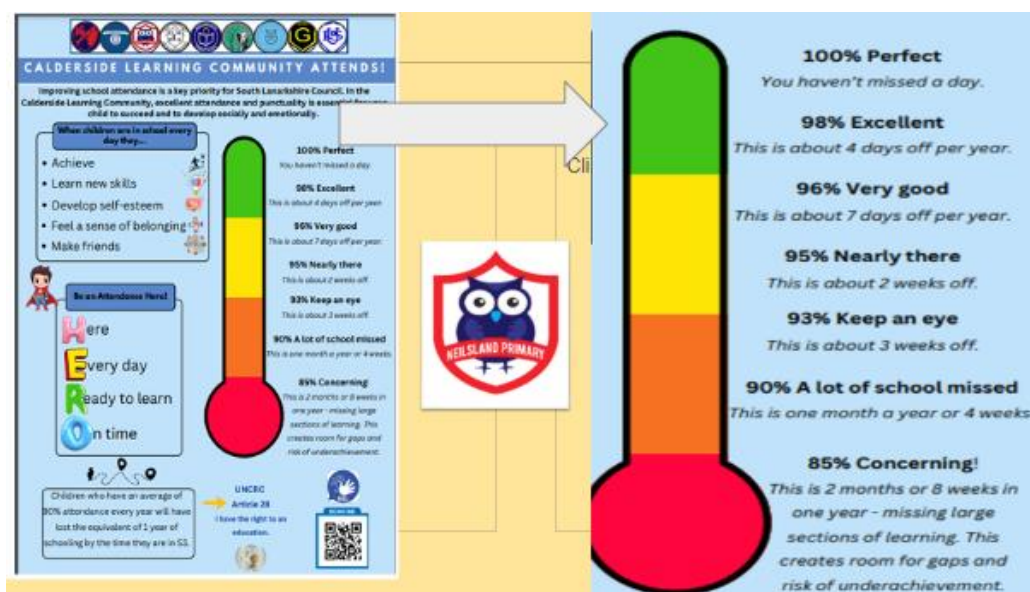


Attendance and Punctuality

We continue to monitor attendance and punctuality closely. During our Attendance and Punctuality assembly we discussed with the children the importance of being at school, Right 28 – A Right to Education - and we also highlighted the impact of being late for school 15 minutes each day.



In the month of August, we had 7 children late for school. We measure lateness using the term 'openings' and although 7 children were late for school, we had 15 late openings. We discussed the traffic light system for monitoring attendance and shared this with the children.



For the month of August, our school attendance was 96.2% and our aim by the end of June 2026 is to have an overall school attendance of 95%. We appreciate your support to achieve this. I would like to share with you the average attendance for each class in the month of August. We will continue to track each class's attendance daily and monthly and share the monthly figures with you in our newsletters.

Class	August Attendance %
Primary 1	96%
Primary 2	95.3%
Primary 3	98%
Primary 4	94.7%
Primary 5	97.1%
Primary 6	94.8%
Primary 7	96.8%



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Pupil Leadership Groups

The children have made a fantastic start in leading a range of pupil leadership groups across the school. Primary 5 children have made an excellent start in their role as Attachment Ambassadors and are loving playing with the Primary 1 and 2 children. Primary 6 children enjoyed Peer Mediation training from Mrs Marnie and have taken up their roles as Peer Mediators in the big playground.



Two children from Primary 2 to Primary 7 have been appointed to the Pupil Council and Primary 1 children will join when they are more settled in school. The Pupil Council members are:

Primary Stage	Children
Primary 2	Maisie McKenna Andrew Murray
Primary 3	Katie Butler Wallace Cameron
Primary 4	Kaiden Park Abigail Lee
Primary 5	Munashe Rwafa Lucy MacDonald
Primary 6	Keiran Backer Alaina Park
Primary 7	Kaiyah Mupunga Kayden Grant Kemp

Their first job is to organise this year's Participatory Budgeting and to write the child friendly School Improvement Plan. They will share this information with you shortly.



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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 on a monthly 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 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.

Blackbox Youth Theatre Group

Blackbox Youth Theatre group came in recently to work with our P6 and P7 pupils. They delivered musical theatre workshops focussing on 'Hairspray' the musical. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed this journey into the expressive arts. We hope that Blackbox will return to work with us again this session.

Flu Immunisation

Flu immunisation will take place on **Tuesday 16th September.**

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

Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs Kelly