



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

November 2025



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 **Fiona Adam** on **neilsland.ps.pc@gmail.com**.

Eco Committee

Our Eco committee have organised a climate change and sustainability fun morning on Thursday 13th November. All pupils will engage in a variety of activities, developing a range of skills across all curricular areas.

Clubs

We currently have a dance club running for our P1-3 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 multisports club. So far this has been open to P5, P6 and P7. 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. P4-7 sessions took place earlier in the session.

Miss Ali is running a drum club for our P5 pupils on a Tuesday from 3.00-4.00pm.

Our P6 and P7 pupils recently had the opportunity to work with Chris McKenzie. Chris played the bagpipes and the pupils had the opportunity to play chanter. We will be offering after school chanter sessions to P6 and P7 pupils. Notes of interest are open now via Parent Portal.





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Football

Mrs Hare will be taking a group of pupils to represent the school at a football tournament on Wednesday 19th November. The team played extremely well last time and we wish them the best of luck.

Football Superstar!!!!!!

Several Scottish girls football teams participated in the Barcelona Girls Cup in October 2025. This tournament took place in Barcelona. The Scottish Schools Football Association (SSFA) took their international girls squad. After a series of trials, one of our P7 pupils Ariana Hardman was selected to represent Scotland. Ariana was captaining the Scotland team and scored the qualifying goal which took them into 2nd place overall. We could not be prouder.



Emotion Coaching

We will soon be running two information workshops which will focus on Emotion Coaching. We use this approach in school daily to support our pupils.

What is Emotion Coaching?

- Emotion Coaching is a communication tool that uses moments of emotion to guide and teach a child or young person about more effective responses.
- Accepts all emotions as normal and healthy (but not all behaviours), and considers what the feelings, needs and emotions are behind the behaviour.
- It enables us to potentially diffuse and de-escalate situations.
- Emotion Coaching helps children to feel seen, appreciated and cared for.

Why Emotion Coach?

Emotion Coached children and young people:

- Achieve more academically in school
- Are more popular
- Have fewer behavioural problems
- Have fewer infectious illnesses
- Are more emotionally stable
- Are more resilient

(Gottman 1997)

This approach is particularly effective in school and we feel that it could also be very useful within the home environment. The workshops will be delivered over two friendly, relaxed sessions by our Educational Psychologist, Heather Smith.

They will take place on **Tuesday 11th November** and **Monday 24th November** from **1.45pm-2.50pm**. We look forward to welcoming as many parents/carers as possible. You can book your place on Parent Portal.



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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. Mrs Calder, HT from Calderside attended our parent consultations in October to answer any questions that parents/carers might have had about Calderside and/or transition. 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 will also join us to watch P7 showcase their learning at their class assembly.

P7 Calderside Connections

All of the primary schools in our Learning Community took part in a special 'Calderside Connects' event on Tuesday 7th October 2025. This event took place across two schools in Blantyre: Auchinraith Primary and Calderside Academy, Blantyre Miners Welfare and Terminal One. All children participated in three different activities over the course of the day. All of these activities focused on aspects of mental, physical and emotional wellbeing, team-building and building resilience. All pupils had a fantastic day and had the opportunity to get to know children from different schools.

You + Me Multiply workshops

Mrs White recently ran a series of maths workshops for our 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. She is currently running the workshops for P2-4 parents. The workshops are 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 and 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 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

Staffing

On Friday 31st October, we bid a very fond farewell to Mrs Barnes and Mrs Gardiner. They have been key members of our school community for 25 years and 18 years respectively. Both will be greatly missed but they are coming back to volunteer in the school so we hopefully won't get the chance to miss them too much!



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Panto

We are going to have a Christmas panto in school on **Friday 5th December** (am). There will be no cost for the children.

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas lunch will take place on **Wednesday 10th December**. Christmas lunch menus and order forms have been issued.



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 1st December to Friday 5th 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 28th 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 dress down day on Friday 14th 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. P3 and P4 are leading this. All items made to sell will be priced at 50p. We have decided not to 'personalise' the items and to try to make them all look the same. This will hopefully give them a better chance of being sold.

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, treats for parties, gifts for P1-3 children, gardening equipment, funding extra-curricular clubs, trips and the whole school pantos.

Blackbox Youth Theatre Group

Blackbox Youth Theatre group came in at the start of the session to deliver taster workshops. They are now working with all P4-7 pupils delivering musical theatre workshops over an eight week block. Our pupils are thoroughly enjoying their experiences and look forward to showcasing their learning at our Christmas performances.



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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. 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. Can we ask children to bring in a small item for their class hamper (if they can). Items can be brought to school anytime. 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 - Blue Christmas
- P2 - Red Christmas
- P3 - Fun Christmas
- P4 - Cosy Christmas
- P5 - White Snowy Christmas
- P6 - A Traditional Christmas
- P7 - Sweet Christmas



Christmas Performances

Our Christmas shows will take place on **Tuesday 9th December** and **Thursday 11th December**. Both will take place at **1.30pm**. More information will follow.

Christmas Parties

The P4-7 party will take place on **Tuesday 16th December** at 1.15pm.

The P1-3 Christmas party will take place on **Wednesday 17th December** at 1.15pm.

The children can be picked up from the office from 12 noon if you wish to take them home to get ready. This is optional. The children can come to school dressed in their party clothes or alternatively bring them to school and we will help them to get changed.

Our special visitor will arrive to the P1-3 party at 2.30pm. Parents are welcome to attend and can come at 2.15pm.



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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.

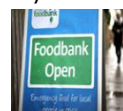


Halloween Costumes and Christmas Jumpers

The school is very proud of our achievement of eight 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 them 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 the 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 94.4%.** 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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We are all excited to be celebrating Scottish Book Week on **17th - 21st November** this year. Our class Reading Champions have had a planning meeting and are busy organising 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. Our P1 pupils will be gifted their Book Bug bags and the Primary 2 and 3 pupils their Read, Write and Count bags which they will bring home to enjoy with family. An email will soon go out informing you of dates and times. The children would love you to join us in our book celebrations. We have a Reading Rocks assembly next week which will be led by the Reading Champions. They will share all their plans for a fun week with pupils and staff!