



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

January 2026

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



Our Parent Council contribute enthusiastically to many aspects of school life. They supported our very successful Christmas Fayre.

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 need 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: **94.5%**

All schools within Calderdale Learning Community have a shared approach towards the promotion of excellent attendance.



CALDERSIDE LEARNING COMMUNITY ATTENDS!

Improving school attendance is a key priority for South Lanarkshire Council. In the Calderside Learning Community, excellent attendance and punctuality is essential for your child to succeed and to develop socially and emotionally.

- When children are in school every day they...
- Achieve
 - Learn new skills
 - Develop self-esteem
 - Feel a sense of belonging
 - Make friends

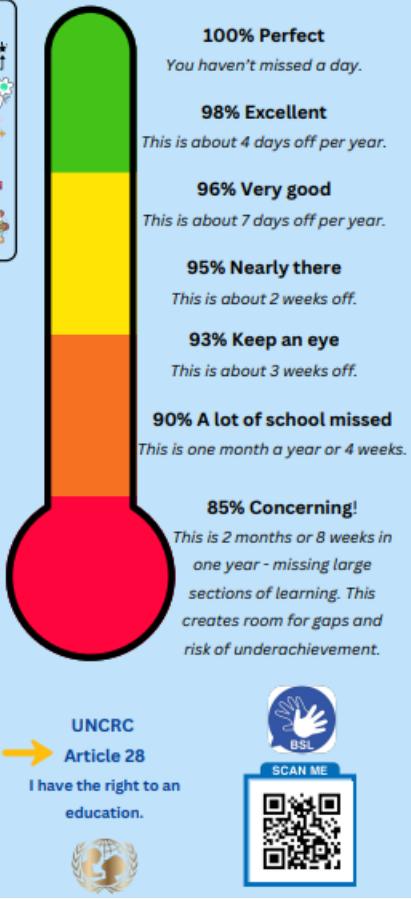


Be an Attendance Hero!

H_{ere}
E_{very day}
R_{eady to learn}
O_{n time}



Children who have an average of 90% attendance every year will have lost the equivalent of 1 year of schooling by the time they are in S3.



UNCRC Article 28
I have the right to an education.



Christmas

We enjoyed all the festivities in the lead up to Christmas. We had two very successful Christmas performances, all children had a Christmas party, we had 'Gies a Break' in school with their panto, our school fayre, some very happy winners of the class hampers and we ran our usual Christmas Shop. All monies raised through the Christmas Shop, the Christmas Fayre and class hampers goes directly back to our pupils.

Our fund so far this session has supported;

- Piping tuition after school
- Dance tuition after school
- Gie's a break panto at Christmas with another planned for the summer term
- P1-3 Christmas Gifts
- P1-7 Parties
- Burns Supper
- P1-7 Easter Gifts
- Buses for all school trips which will be taking place over the next couple of terms
- Blackbox Theatre company for an 8 week block with all P4-7 pupils
- Outdoor storage for new playground equipment
- Playground toys and resources
- Classroom resources
- John Muir Trust renewal
- Class novels
- Entry to dance festival

Emotion Coaching

In November we ran Emotion Coaching workshops for parents. 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.

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

Open Session

We will be holding an open session on **Tuesday 24th February for all 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.

Easter Fun Day

We are going to have an Easter fun morning for all classes on **Thursday 2nd 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 10th 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 13th February**. The Primary 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!



P7 are also organising a Danceathon to tie in with Comic Relief on **Friday 13th March**.

Extra Curricular Clubs

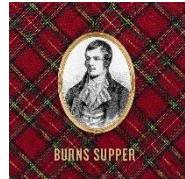
- The multisports club is run on a Monday lunchtime by Mrs Kennedy.
- Chanting (Piping) Club with Mr McKenzie runs on a Tuesday after school for P5-7 pupils.
- Drum Club with Miss Ali runs after school on a Tuesday for P5 pupils
- Eco club with Mrs Gilroy runs on a Wednesday lunchtime.
- Football with Mrs Hare club runs on a Wednesday afternoon for P5-7 pupils.
- Our pupils are running a range of clubs over the next couple of terms. Miss Cassidy is currently going through applications.
- 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 23rd January** with Lesley Scanlan, our Active Schools Co-ordinator for P4-7 pupils at 8.25am

SGSOPA

Stephen Gaughan School of Performing Arts delivered taster workshops to all classes on **Tuesday 20th January**. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were delighted to learn some new skills. Have a look on Instagram for some photographs and videos.

Burns Supper

We will enjoy haggis, neeps, tatties and shortbread washed down with one of Scotland's favourite drinks, Irn Bru, at our Burns Supper on the **Friday 23rd January**!



P6 Euroquiz

Some of our P6 pupils will be taking part in P6 Euroquiz at Newton Farm Primary School on **Thursday 26th February**. 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.

You+Me Multiply Parents/Carers Workshops

We will be running another set of You+Me Multiply workshops for parents/carers later in term. The workshops have a maths focus where Mrs White discusses 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.



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 to the class assemblies. They take place at 1.20 on the following dates:

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

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week takes place from **9th – 15th 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 Place2Be live interactive and a 'Biscuit & Blether'.

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. Mrs Calder, the HT at Calderside joined us for parent consultations in October.

P4 BEAM Project

Our P4 pupils are currently working with development officers from SLC on the BEAM project – Building Attendance, Engagement and Motivation. They are exploring their Scotland through a big question – decided by the class - What makes Scotland Wonderful? The children will lead and direct their learning over the course of the project. They have had 3 sessions so far and were delighted to explore Scotland using VRs during their first session.

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

After consultation with the pupils, we have purchased 14 additional iPads (2 per class). They are now in use in classes. We have also purchased lots of new playground equipment. The music station has proved to be particularly popular!

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

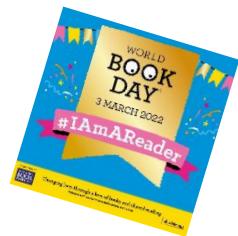
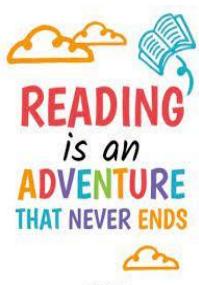
Sumdog

We have purchased a Sumdog licence for P4-7 pupils. Your child will be coming home with their Sumdog user name and password. If your child can use Sumdog at home for a minimum of 3 x 15 minute sessions per week, it will be of massive benefit to their learning.

Free School Meals

All P1- P5 pupils are entitled to government funded free school meals. Whist this is the case, an application for free school meals can still be made by eligible families which can lead to other

potential financial benefits. Please see SLC website for further information. If you would like support in applying for this, please contact the school.



We have all been enjoying lots of reading for pleasure activities and experiences in school over the last few months. We all took part in a fun 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! At our recent Reading Rocks Assembly, the reading champions gave everyone an update on some of the reading events that are coming up. They have planned some monthly reading challenges that everyone can take part in and our travelling bookcase will be out and about again! Reading Schools week takes place from **2nd – 6th February**. Classes will be including lots of reading activities into their daily learning. This is a new initiative and we are looking forward to taking part. The next job for our class reading champions is to meet and plan events for the classes to celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March** to promote our love of reading at Neilsland and to ensure that we all have a fun packed, happy reading day! They will present this at our next Reading Rocks assembly and will share their plans with parents/carers too. On the 5th, pupils can come to school dressed as their favourite book character (optional). They can bring in the book their character is from to share with classmates or bring in an item relating to a favourite book to show and tell. 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! 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 areas and have been very popular - great choices were made! We are presently selecting some new books for our classes to support our equality and diversity curriculum and look forward to their delivery.

