



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

March 2026



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I cannot believe that we are almost at the Spring break and fast approaching term 4. It has been a very busy year for us so far at Neilsland and we are looking forward to an action-packed Term 4! We have many events and activities planned and look forward to welcoming you over the course of the term. As always, I would like to thank all of our families for their continued support. In particular, I would like to remind families of the importance of children being in school on time each day. In the month of February 4.5% of pupils were late for school, a decrease from 6% in February last year. We know that family circumstances change and if we can support you with these changes, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

Thank you.

Mrs Kelly



Danceathon/ Neilsland's Got Talent /Easter Fun Day/ Dance Festival

Our P7 pupils have been extremely busy, organising a Talent Show, Danceathon and Easter Fun Day for the full school.

Pupils were able to showcase their talents in front of the whole school during the talent show after a rigorous round of class-based auditions. Everyone agreed that Neilsland certainly does have talent!

On **Friday 13th March**, P7 hosted a Danceathon for all classes, parents and carers to tie in with Comic Relief. It was lovely to invite our adults into the school. The event was enjoyed by all and we raised over £100 for Comic Relief. Thank you.

On **Friday 4th April**, all classes will enjoy an Easter Fun Day. P7 are organising a range of games, events and activities for all classes. Every child will receive a small gift to wish them a Happy Easter.

17 pupils from P4-7 will take part in South Lanarkshire Councils dance festival on **Wednesday 6th May** in Hamilton Townhouse. They are being coached by Caitlin Hutchison, our dance teacher who runs our dance club after school every Friday. She has choreographed their routine. We are sure the troupe will be absolutely outstanding, and we cannot wait to see their performance.



Pupil Attendance

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school before 9.00am. There is an answering machine for this purpose. Unexpected absences will be followed up by school staff, in line with SLC policy. Parents who have to take their child out of school during the day for an appointment, should send in a note in advance and collect their child from the School Office.

Regular school attendance is essential for all our children to make good progress, achieve their academic potential and consequently have better chances in life. Our whole school attendance target is 95%. It is the responsibility of parents/carers and the school to achieve this. There are 190 school days across the school year, leaving 175 days to book holidays and attend non urgent appointments. We appreciate that children are unwell from time to time and that there can be exceptional circumstances for absences, but we ask that you think carefully about keeping your child out of school. There is a strong connection between attendance and achievement at school. Absence is proven to have a significant negative impact upon a child's educational attainment.

Currently, our overall attendance is 94.3%



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CALDELSIDE 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!

Here
Every day
Ready to learn
On 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.

100% Perfect
You haven't missed a day.

98% Excellent
This is about 4 days off per year.

96% Very good
This is about 7 days off per year.

95% Nearly there
This is about 2 weeks off.

93% Keep an eye
This is about 3 weeks off.

90% A lot of school missed
This is one month a year or 4 weeks.

85% Concerning!
This is 2 months or 8 weeks in one year - missing large sections of learning. This creates room for gaps and risk of underachievement.

UNCRC Article 28
I have the right to an education.

BSL
SCAN ME

Parent Consultations

We are looking forward to our parent/carer consultations which will take place on **Wednesday 1st April**. We are extremely proud of our children's achievements and hope that you enjoy the opportunity to share in their successes. Bookings are open and can be made via Parents Portal. Each appointment is 7 mins (with 1 minute turnaround). After this time, if you feel that you require further discussion, please speak to Mrs Kelly or Mrs Brock and they will make arrangements.

Staffing

Mrs Marnie, our PT of Equity, will leave us at Spring break and move full time to the post of Acting Depute Head at Udston Primary School. Mrs Marnie has been working at Udston Monday to



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Wednesday since October and she will remain there full time until August 2027. We are so proud of Mrs Marnie and delighted for her but we will miss her dearly and look forward to her return.

Transitions

We are currently working in partnership with Calderside Academy to ensure the smooth transition of all our P7 pupils. We have had various visits from staff and pupils with more visits planned for next term.

Some of our pupils took part in a Fun Football and Basketball Festival at Calderside Academy on **Friday 20th March**. The event was organised by Lesly Scanlan, Active Schools Co-ordinator and run by the S6 Sports Leaders. Our children thoroughly enjoyed the event and competed against other schools from the Learning Community.

We have 2 induction dates organised for our pupils coming into P1. The visits will be on **Wednesday 13th May 1.30pm-2.30pm** and **Wednesday 20th May 11.00am-12.30pm**. Our new pupils will spend time in class with their teacher and will get to meet their P7 buddy. They will also stay for lunch on **Wednesday 20th May**.

Our new P1 pupils will also be visiting the school and spending time with our current P1 pupils, taking part in a play session, outdoor learning session and P.E. session together.

Outdoor Classroom

Our outdoor classroom is coming along well. We still have windows to go in and benches to be added. We look forward to enjoying this area once it is complete.

Swimming

Our P4 pupils have started their 12 week block of swimming lessons at Hamilton Water Palace. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to develop water confidence, an essential life skill. The children are making great progress and are an absolute credit to the school.



Parent Council

Our Parent Council are actively involved in many initiatives within the school and always 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 A on neilsland.ps.pc@gmail.com.

Easter Raffle

We will be raffling Lego sets from now until Easter, including a limited-edition Harry Potter set. Please help us to raise funds for the children by selling as many raffle tickets as possible. Each ticket is £1. Money and raffle tickets should be returned to the school (in an envelope) by **Thursday 2nd April**



Parking/Engine Idling

In session 2023-2024, we officially introduced our School Travel Plan at Parent Consultations in March. Traffic flows more freely with the nursery staff using the school parking area. This allows more spaces for collection at the end of the day. Initially, this almost eliminated the issue of double parking. However, recently, we have noticed double parking becoming an issue again and have had a number of complaints recently regarding the safety of the children at the end of the school day. **Double Parking makes it almost impossible for children coming out to see beyond these vehicles.** We have also noted an increase in **incorrect use of disabled bays**. We focus on road safety in school with the support of our Junior Road Safety Officers. It is imperative that parents and carers of pupils are careful, considerate and safe in their driving practices. Our



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Junior Road Safety Officers will be handing out information and fliers at the school gate. Can we also remind people to turn off their engines if they are parked up waiting to collect pupils. As well as being illegal, breathing in air pollution has been linked to a wide range of health problems, including lung and heart disease, stroke and cancer. **Children and older people are more vulnerable to air pollution.**



School Fund

We continually aim to reduce the cost of the school day for our pupils. We do not charge for extra curricular activities.

Our school fund is also used to subsidise the transport cost for all trips taking place before the end of the session. This will help to ensure that costs to families are kept to a minimum. The following trips are organised:

- P1 Low Parks Museum – **Thursday 21st May**
- P2 Glasgow Science Centre – **Tuesday 2nd June**
- P3 Kelvingrove – **Thursday 14th May**
- P4 Calderglen – **Wednesday 20th May**
- P5 Kelvingrove – **Tuesday 21st April**
- P6 – Dynamic Earth - **Friday 24th April**
- P7 Sky Academy – **Monday 30th March**



Conference of Schools 4 (COS4)

The Youth Forum are holding **Conference of Schools 4 (COS4) on 26th March**. This conference brings together P5–P7 learners from across South Lanarkshire to explore the theme "**GREEN**" (Grow, Rethink, Empower, Enrich, Nurture). Key features include:

- **Youth-Led Discussions:** Facilitated by the [SLC Youth Forum](#) to empower student voices.
- **Interactive Workshops:** Activities focused on biodiversity, waste reduction, and sustainable lifestyles.
- **School Improvements:** Pupil developed practical ideas to make their schools and communities more eco-friendly.

Five members of our Eco Committee will attend with Mrs Gilroy.



St Peter's Primary School

We have recently linked with St Peter's to celebrate World Book Day in March and over the past couple of weeks our P3 and P4 pupils have joined to take part in dodgeball tournaments. We are delighted to work so closely with our neighbouring school. St Peter's also attend our class learning showcases.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have a variety of clubs being run this term by pupils including chess, girls football, crochet, French, boys football, dance, singing, super sports, multisports and gymnastics.

We also have:

- The multisports lunchtime club is run on Mondays by Mrs Kennedy and is very well attended
- Dance club is on a Friday with Caitlin, it's great fun and is currently open to our Dance Festival pupils.
- A fun fitness club for P1-3 and P4-7 pupils has taken place on Friday mornings before school. More dates will follow after Easter.
- Eco club takes place on a Wednesday lunchtime with Mrs Gilroy and is attended by



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pupils from across all stages

- Football club for P5-7 takes place on a Wednesday after school with Mrs Hare.
- Piping club for P6 and P7 pupils takes place on a Tuesday after school with Chris Mackenzie. We will be starting a P5 piping club after Easter.
- Sumdog club runs on a Thursday for P4 and P5 pupils and on Friday for P6 and P7 pupils. We will have another Sumdog club for the remaining classes after Easter

Mixed Football

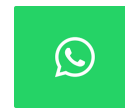
We continue to attend mixed football events and compete against other schools. We take different members from Mrs Hare's football team each time. We have had many successes at the tournaments and would like to congratulate all of our players on their sportsmanship. They are a credit to the school.

P6 Euroquiz

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

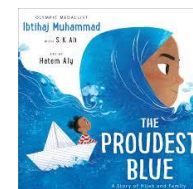
It has come to our attention that several of our pupils have been engaging in an inappropriate and offensive manner online.

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.

Equalities and Diversity

An improvement priority this session is Equalities and Diversity. We are working with David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Townhill Primary School. Teachers from each stage across the 3 schools agreed on a focus book and planned a series of 4 activities based on the book to be implemented during Race Equalities Week (**2nd – 6th February**). Some of the key themes explored were poverty, empathy and understanding, race, disability and neuro-diversity. The classes shared their learning via Google Meet. The response from both staff and pupils has been extremely positive. Plans are already underway for more collaborative work in Equalities and Diversity next session.



Nut Free School

Just a wee reminder that we are a nut free school. We have a number of children with a nut allergy. Thank you for your support.



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

Rights are extremely important to us and are a key focus within the class on daily basis and at our weekly assemblies. We are continuing to embed them in school life. One of the ways we have done this is looking at our pupil led and pupil voice groups and matched them to UNCRC articles.

Article 24

As Eco Committee we work to promote our right to a safe environment



We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded our **9th Green Eco Flag** for our commitment towards environmental issues. It clearly demonstrates that our hard work is appreciated and is the perfect way to acknowledge, reward and celebrate the ecological achievements of our young people. Thank you to Mrs Gilroy and the Eco Committee for their hard work and dedication to leading us in all Eco initiatives.

Article 12

As Pupil Council members, we have the right to say our points of view and have our views taken seriously. We support our school friends to do this too.



Mrs Marnie leads our Pupil Council. Our Pupil Council is a group of elected students who represent their peers, acting as a voice to improve school life by communicating views and concerns to staff. They participate in decision-making, support events and suggest changes to school practices. Recently during conversations, they wanted to talk about feedback and the way that it is used by teachers. They have worked together to create a google form and each class will engage in a consultation about how feedback is currently given. Following the consultation, the Pupil Council will then consider our current position and propose relevant changes.

Article 31

We have a right to rest, relax and play.

Our Playground Charter has been in place since last session and is used daily. While things have settled following some recent playground challenges, we believe now is the perfect time for a review. To ensure the charter remains effective, we launched a whole-school consultation during our assembly on Friday. We look forward to sharing the pupils' updates with you soon!"



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Neil Island Primary School
Playground Chart
Aim
 At break times everyone in our school has the right to relax, play and take part in a range of activities.

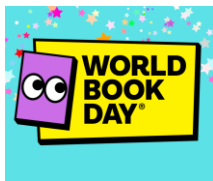
In our playground we will grow together by:

- 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

Article 31
 Every child has the right to relax, play and take t in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.



Foodbank

We continue to offer our foodbank in our 'Rake and Take' shed. 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.

March 26 Reading Schools Newsletter

World Book Day on 5th March was a great success. A big thank you to our Class Reading Champions for organising a fantastic book themed day! There were some fabulous costumes and lots of reading based activities to enjoy, it was also great to have some reading time and activities with our friends from St Peter's Primary. As the weather improves, we are looking forward to spending more time outdoors under our listening tree to read together and also to having our Book Barrows out in the playground at playtimes and lunchtimes so we can read with our friends. Our Travelling Bookcase visited the nursery recently with some of our P6 pupils and Reading Champions. The nursery children loved our visit and stories, well done to you all! We look forward to taking it on our travels again soon. Please remember to have a look at our 'Borrow a Book' selection of fiction and non-fiction books for kids and grown-ups, you can find it in the bubble at the main entrance. Simply choose a book, sign it out, return it when you've read it and then choose another one! We are looking forward to a delivery of new fiction books we have ordered for our class BookBuzz areas to celebrate inclusion, diversity and equality and some non-fiction books to complement our topics and STEM themes. Happy Reading!

