

# Simpson Primary



Simpson Primary School  
Leyland Road  
Wester Inch  
Bathgate  
EH48 2TH

Tel No: 01506 656371

**E-mail address:**

[simpson-ps@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:simpson-ps@westlothian.org.uk)

**Website:**

<http://www.simpsonprimary.westlothian.org.uk>

**Blog:**

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/simpsonps/>

**Twitter:** @SimpsonPrimary



Welcome back to our new school session 2018-19 and a particularly warm welcome to our new pupils and their families. We look forward to working in partnership with all of our new families and are confident that your child will have a happy and successful time at Simpson Primary School. We have welcomed 97 P1s and 15 new pupils at various stages across the school. Our nursery is also beginning to fill up as we welcome our youngest children into Simpson. We have had a very settled start to the session with a very positive attitude to school life being demonstrated by pupils of all age groups. Our P1s are quickly familiarising themselves with their new routines, ably supported by their fabulous P7 buddies. The children have already demonstrated their commitment to learning and seem more than ready for the many opportunities ahead. Exciting times!

## News

### August 2018



#### Staff News

We have experienced a few staffing changes since the end of last session.

We have welcomed a number of new teachers to the school- Miss Blyth (P1), Miss Scott (P2), Mr Brice (P4) and Miss Butler (P5). Mrs Wallace has also joined us as a part time teacher and will spend each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday covering teachers' non-contact time.

Miss Sneddon and Miss Reilly have also joined us as Early Years' Officers in our nursery.

We extend a very warm welcome to all of our new staff and are sure that they will have a very successful and happy time with us.

We also have a couple of members of staff leaving us to move on to new ventures. Mrs Bird has gained a new post at Kirknewton Primary School and will therefore be leaving us just before our September holiday. Mrs Drummond, one of our pupil support workers, has also moved on to a new post, as she decided it was time to experience a change and is now undertaking quite a different role within the council.

We thank both Mrs Bird and Mrs Drummond for all of their hard work on behalf of the children at Simpson Primary and we wish them well as they move on to their new posts.

We also have some baby news. Mrs MacCallum and Mrs McGregor both gave birth in the summer holidays to baby boys, Finn and Luca respectively and we are pleased to say that they are all doing very well.

Congratulations also to our newly married teachers Mrs Lurinsky and Mrs MacKenzie. We wish them every happiness for the future.

All staff are looking forward to meeting you at the up and coming Meet the Teacher sessions. Please make every effort to attend as information differs from one stage to the next. It is therefore important to find out about the year ahead from the outset. A letter has already been issued with further details. Please note that these sessions are for P2-P7 only, as the transition meetings held at the end of last session for P1 parents/carers and our recent meeting for new nursery parents/carers have replaced the "Meet the Teacher" sessions for those year groups. The on-going transition process at those stages will continue to offer opportunities for parents/carers to further familiarise themselves with the information necessary to support their child's learning.



### **Whole School Priorities 2018-19**

We are looking forward to the session ahead and the various opportunities and challenges that will shape the children's learning experiences as we move through the school year.

We will continue to focus on learning, teaching and assessment strategies that help to raise attainment, particularly in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. Staff will continue to undertake a range of professional learning opportunities and will be working collaboratively within school and with colleagues from other schools to ensure consistent standards.

We will be promoting a culture of writing, to ensure that the progress our children are making in reading transfers into their written work and that they can attain well in all aspects of literacy. We will also continue to build on progress made in numeracy/maths by engaging with the West Lothian Maths strategy in a way that best meets the needs of our school context.

Digital literacy and 1 plus 2 modern languages will feature strongly in our curriculum development and we will continue to progress the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) agenda that we engaged in last session.

Health and wellbeing will continue to be central to the children's learning, with the focus on positive relationships, nurture and awareness raising in relation to adverse childhood experiences.

Our Standards and Quality Report for parents/carers for session 2017-18 will soon be available, and further details of our School Improvement Plan priorities for session 2018-19 will also be shared with you at that time.



### **Parental engagement**

Thank you to all parents/carers who were able to attend the Parent Focus Groups last session gathering views on school improvements in the area of parental engagement. These will continue this session to help take forward the improvements identified. Look out for further information and dates coming soon on our website. Improvements include creating resources which help you to support your children in maths, with guidance on what and how we teach maths in classrooms today. This will include online materials, e.g. video clips, to ensure that parents can access materials at a time to suit if they are unable to attend events within the school day.



### **Communication**

We aim to share information with parents/carers in a variety of ways and are currently considering how we can further streamline our methods of communication. Listed below are the methods we use and their purposes.

### **School Website**

Following the initial launch of our new website last session, this will now be the main source of information for parents/carers. The website

provides useful information such as upcoming school events, copies of newsletters, online resources for pupils as well as links to our Blog and Twitter feeds.

[www.simpsonprimary.westlothian.org.uk](http://www.simpsonprimary.westlothian.org.uk)

### **Blog**

Blog posts are written by classes once per week and aim to share highlights of what the children have been learning in class with some tips on how you can extend this learning at home.

### **Blog**

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/simpsonps/>

### **Twitter**

Our Simpson Primary Twitter page provides snapshots of the wider life of our school, e.g. celebrating learning and special events.

**Twitter - @SimpsonPrimary**

### **School newsletters**

School newsletters share information and updates from across the school. These are written by the Head Teacher with contributions from teachers and pupils. They are sent out monthly via email or bag mail. They also contain a date list of upcoming events.

### **Class newsletters**

Class newsletters are termly and written by the class teachers. They share information about key learning that will be covered across the term.

### **Online Learning Journals**

Online learning journals are used in Nursery and Primary 1. These pupil journals share the learning and progress of your child through observations and photographs. Parents/carers will be provided with a personal login to access their child's journal.

### **Simfiles**

Simfiles are used in Primary 2-7. These pupil profiles are a way for pupils to gather the learning from each of the 8 curriculum areas that they are proud of and identify things that they would like to work on. Children will regularly refer to them within

class and they will be shared with parents/carers at key points across the session.

### **Group call**

We use email facility offered by group call and this is an efficient and cost effective method of communication. Group call also offers a text facility which may be used as an alert but as this incurs a cost per text, will not be used for regular communication.

### **Open door policy**

If you have any questions or concerns specific to your child, please feel free to make an appointment via the school office. Please be aware social media may not be checked by teachers on a daily basis hence a telephone call to the school office.



### **First Minister's Reading Challenge (FMRC)**

On Wednesday 20th June four children attended the First Minister's Reading Challenge Celebration in Edinburgh. We were asked to showcase our work in this area and were also successful, along with a small group of West Lothian schools, in gaining a prestigious award for the council. We were delighted with this recognition, as much hard work had gone into this over the course of last session.

We have a display in the entrance to the school, showcasing some of our work, so please take time to have a look when you are next in school.

Our final FMRC event of the year took place on Tuesday 26th June with our Inspiring Classrooms event which featured children's author Emily Dodd. This was attended by selected pupils from each class across the school and she was a great hit with all of them! You may want to look out for some of her books.

We will be signing up for the challenge again this year, so watch this space for further details.





### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sway

At the end of last session we shared our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sway which gave a flavour of our year and captured the diversity of learning experiences across the school. If you haven't already had an opportunity to look at this, please do so using the link below.

<https://sway.office.com/4QC1yBp0WpMCEjmh?ref=Link>



### Personal Data

Each school session we check the data held on your child and it is vital that we are notified of any changes. Please ensure that your child's details are up to date and that we are immediately made aware of changes to contact phone numbers, in particular.



### Absence

Please be reminded to contact school by 9.30am at the latest, should your child require to be absent from school. This practice needs to be repeated each day that your child is absent. We will follow up any unreported absence and should we fail to be able to contact parents/carers, information will be passed to appropriate authorities who will then pursue the reasons for absence.



### Traffic Issues

As we continue to have issues with traffic in the school vicinity, please ensure that, if you must drive, you do so sensibly, courteously and with caution, to avoid any potential accident that may cause harm, particularly to a child. **Please also be reminded that the school car park is not a drop off/pick up zone and that clear signage is in place indicating this.**



### Healthcare and Medicines in School

If your child requires medicine in school or has any other healthcare need, please let us know so that we can issue the appropriate request forms for completion and ensure your child's needs are met. No medicines are permitted to be administered in school without these. Prescribed medicines should be provided in the original packaging from the GP with the prescription label showing the child's name and expiry date. Medicines should not be brought into school by children. Full guidance and copies of the request forms can be viewed at: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/8865/Individual-Health-Care-Plans-and-Forms>



### Online payments - iPayimpact

West Lothian Council has recently introduced a more convenient way to order and pay for school meals, using a secure internet service called iPayimpact.

You can order your child's meal for the day/week for up to 6 weeks online and pay your meal and milk accounts directly, instead of sending cash to school in your child's pockets.

All parents/carers have had specific details about this system and I hope you will support us in working toward our goal to become a cashless school.



### School uniform

Please be reminded of school uniform requirements.

Navy trousers/skirts with sky blue shirts/polo shirts and navy sweatshirts/jumpers /cardigans (with or without the school logo).

Footwear should be black or navy.

The school uniform for class photographs and formal events (when children are representing the

school) will be navy trousers/skirts, sky blue shirt and school tie.

Compliance with these requirements will be much appreciated, so that we can ensure high standards in our school dress. Thank you.



### **Outdoor Clothing**

Outdoor learning is beginning to feature regularly as part of our children's learning experiences and is an expected part of the curriculum. As we do not want any child to be disadvantaged, could you please ensure that your child is equipped with the appropriate articles of clothing, so that they can fully participate in such activities. A bit of cold and rain will not be enough to make us change our outdoor plans and what is better anyway, than jumping in puddles with our wellies, well wrapped up against the elements! We also don't want our children to be stuck inside at breaks and lunchtimes because there is a bit of rain, so waterproof jackets and appropriate footwear will enable us to go out in most weathers. Your support will be much appreciated.



### **Allergies**

We have a number of children in our school who have a severe nut allergy and require enhanced supervision at key points during the school/nursery day. In order to keep our school a nut free school, we would be grateful if you would ensure that your child does not bring any snacks/ packed lunches containing nuts or nut products. If your child has been asked to bring "junk" into school by their teacher, please ensure that the boxes/containers do not have any nut products in the ingredient list. Your support with this would be much appreciated. Thank you.



### **Child Protection**

Child protection is an important aspect of our work in school and we as a staff have a duty to pass on any concerns that we may have about a child's welfare to either Health, Social Work or the Police for further investigation. This duty however, extends beyond school as we, as members of the public, are required to pass on concerns of a child protection nature that may come to our attention within our community. To support us all with this process and to offer further information, West Lothian Child Protection Committee (WLCPC) has its own website. The website describes the work of the WLCPC, advises the public of who to contact if they have a concern about a child and what the agencies do once they receive information. The website contains the contact details of organisations that can help adults deal with their own problems and contains information for children and young people about the child protection process, their rights and where they can get help. Hopefully people will feel more confident passing their concerns on, knowing what happens once the information has been shared.



### **Parent Helpers**

Every session we appeal to parents/carers to give of their time to support the school in some capacity. We are obviously aware that time is precious and appreciate entirely that many people will not be in a position to offer a regular or significant level of support. As we develop the skill levels and leadership potential of our pupils, we will be increasingly relying on parents/carers to share their skills, talents and knowledge of the workplace, to enhance the opportunities that we can offer our children. Please don't be shy as our children need you!

We obviously do still need those parents/carers who can commit regularly to help around school, so

if you are in a position to help us in this way you will be most welcome.

Please contact the school office, or a member of teaching staff should you wish to offer your services in some way. We will provide guidance to support parent helpers in their role within school which will be issued to you when you start and we ask that you read this carefully. We will also ask that you **complete a PVG application**, to ensure the safety of our children. Our key priority is that you approach this role with sensitivity to all within the class context and understand that maintaining confidentiality is an absolute requirement of undertaking a parent helper's role. We are sure that the majority of parents fully understand this and we look forward to working with you.



*Individual class information is available on the school blog/Twitter and shared via class newsletters at regular intervals*



### Dates for your Diary

The Simpson PS Parental Engagement Calendar will follow soon and along with the West Lothian Council Session Dates, will provide details of up and coming events/ holidays for session 2018-19. West Lothian Council Session Dates can also be found on the Council website following this link

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/schoolholidays>

Mon 3rd Sept - P1 reading workshop and class visit  
2.00pm - 3.15pm

Wed 5th Sept - Meet the Teacher Evening  
P2 - 5.30pm, P3 and P3/2 - 6.00pm, P4 - 6.30pm

Thurs 6th Sept - Meet the Teacher Evening  
P5- 5.30pm, P6 - 6.00pm, P7 and P7/6 - 6.30pm

Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> Sept - Scottish Maths Week

Mon 17th Sept - Holiday

Tues 18th Sept - Staff in-service day (school closed to all pupils)

Fri 28th Sept- Macmillan Coffee Morning (save the date/details to follow)

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Oct - Parent/staff consultations (details to follow)

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Oct - Parent/staff consultations (details to follow)

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Oct - Flu vaccinations

Fri 12th Oct - break for October holidays

Mon 22nd Oct - Staff in-service day (school closed to all pupils)

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct - Pupils return to school