



Simpson Primary School
Leyland Road
Wester Inch
Bathgate
EH48 2TH

Tel No: 01506 656371

E-mail address:

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

Website:

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

Blog:

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

Twitter:

@SimpsonPrimary
@nurserysimpson



Simpson Primary

News

October 2018



News from Mrs Black

sportscotland Gold School Sport Award

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in gaining our Gold School Sport Award, reflecting the value we place on sport in our school. Our work has also focused on pathways into community sport, opportunities to compete and perform in events, celebrating sport, leadership opportunities for pupils, professional learning and the importance of recognition and awards. This work has been ably led by our Sports Leaders and many thanks to Mrs Mackenzie and Mr Aitken for submitting our supporting evidence. We are all very proud of this achievement and will continue to build on our very good work.



Staff news

We are delighted to announce that Miss Ferris has successfully completed her Into Headship course and will receive her qualification in due course. This has involved a tremendous amount of hard work and commitment, over and above her day job and her work is already impacting positively on the school.

Well done and congratulations Miss Ferris!



Parent/staff consultations

We look forward to meeting you at the imminent parent/staff consultations and hope that you find this a valuable experience, gaining useful information about your child's progress in their learning. If you haven't already done so, please take time to book your appointment on our online booking system.



Continuous School Improvement

Please note that our Standard and Quality Report for last session and our School Improvement Plan for 2018-19 are now on our school website. An updated version of our school handbook is also on our website.





Scottish National Standardised Assessments

This session, children in P1, P4 and P7 will be undertaking national assessments in reading, writing and numeracy. These will take place as follows:-

P7 - from now until 9th November 2018

P4 - between 25th February and 5th April 2019

P1 - between 23rd April and 31st May 2019

The purpose of the assessments is to add to the range of evidence that staff use to determine progress and to further inform their professional judgement when determining whether a child has achieved their age appropriate level.

The link below will enable you to access more detailed information.

<https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/parents-and-carers/>



First Minister's Reading Challenge

We have recently registered for this year's First Minister's Reading Challenge as we continue to build a reading culture within our school. Our pupil group for this year will shortly meet to discuss ideas to take the challenge forward and build upon our success from last session.

Please look out for the link to our questionnaire arriving in your Inbox and take time to respond before October 12th.

We will continue to use our Twitter feed to highlight our in-school activities and encourage you to continue to post reading themed photos using our #SPSLovestoRead. Please look out for further developments in our Twitter campaign.

As part of our continued engagement with the FMRC we would like to establish some new community partnerships. If you feel you have any skills, experience or indeed contacts that you think may assist us with this, please get in touch.



Pupil Groups

Membership of our pupil groups is now being decided and work will begin in the various areas. Each group will provide regular updates of their progress. Our current pupil groups are as follows

Rights Respecting Schools, Eco Group (to include travel), Fairtrade/International Group, First Minister's Reading Challenge (FMRC)

Our House Captains and Pupil Leadership Group will have leadership roles within the school, supported by P7 prefects. The Pupil Leadership Group will review our school improvement plan and part of this work will involve using the new child friendly version of How Good is OUR School? We look forward to each group sharing their learning with us and taking forward priorities in their specific areas.



Guide to Managing Children's Screen Time

There is growing concern about children being affected by overuse of consoles/devices and the impact of this upon sleep patterns, behaviour and mood.

We have placed a very good information leaflet on our school blog, produced by Internet Matters which offers information, guidance and strategies for parents to help them tackle this. Please take time to have a look.



Flu Vaccinations

Please remember, as previously communicated to you directly by NHS Lothian, that flu vaccinations will take place in school on Thursday 11th October. If you haven't already returned the consent form for your child, you still have time to do so.





Students

We will be welcoming a range of students into our classes again this session, to provide an essential workplace experience and to support future professionals within education. Our students will range from senior secondary school pupils who require a week's work experience, to students from college and university undertaking courses in early learning and childcare, pupil support and teaching. Our children are always eager to welcome a new face into their classes and we hope to offer a quality experience which will be mutually beneficial and impact positively on all involved.



Fundraising

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We were delighted with the tremendous sum of £1045.04 raised at our recent Macmillan Coffee Morning. The P6s did a wonderful job of organising this event and we had great support from the school community. Thanks very much to everyone who supported this very worthy cause.



STV Children's Appeal

We will be supporting the STV Children's Appeal this year, instead of Children In Need, as we have a pupil who is actively and publicly involved in this fundraising appeal. We would like to support this pupil and further information will be shared when details are finalised. We still remain strong supporters of Children In Need and are happy for children to come dressed up on the day. We will not be asking for Children In Need donations however, as this will not be the focus of our fundraising for this year.



Remembrance Day

Poppies will be on sale in school leading up to Remembrance Day should your child wish to buy one for a small donation.



General Information / Regular Reminders

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.



Online payments - iPayimpact

West Lothian Council has 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.



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>



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.



Keeping Ourselves Healthy

Part of our health and wellbeing programme teaches children to maintain practices consistent with good hygiene, in order to prevent the spread of germs eg blowing noses, covering our mouths when coughing and washing hands regularly. We would welcome your continued support to encourage your child to follow these hygienic routines, particularly as we head towards the winter months.

Please note that if your child is suffering from sickness and/or diarrhoea they must be absent from school for at least 48 hours after their symptoms have cleared.

We would be grateful if you could also check your child's hair regularly, to avoid an outbreak of head lice, as part of maintaining your child's good health.

More information relating to children's health can be accessed through this link

<http://kidshealth.org/>



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.



Absence / Latecoming

Please be reminded to contact school by 9.30am at the latest, should your child require to be absent from school. Parents/carers must provide a specific reason for absence. 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.



Personal Data

Please advise the school office, as soon as possible, of any changes to home/ mobile telephone numbers, address or other personal details. This will ensure that our records are up to date at all times.





Parent Helpers

Many thanks to those of you who have offered your support as parent helpers this session. This has been much appreciated. If you feel that you can support us in some way and have not offered as yet, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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



Dates for your Diary

Please refer to the **Simpson PS Parental Engagement Calendar** and West Lothian Council Session Dates, for details of up and coming events/holidays. This information is also on our school website. West Lothian Council Session Dates can also be found on the Council website following this link

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

Key Events - October/November

Wed 10th Oct - Parent/staff consultations

Thurs 11th Oct - Flu Vaccinations

Parent/staff consultations

Fri 12th Oct - break for October holidays

Mon 22nd Oct - Staff in-service day

Tues 23rd Oct - Pupils return

Fri 26th Oct - Class Assembly for P2a (Miss Brown)

Wed 31st Oct - P1 Parent/Carer Open Afternoon
2.00-3.00pm

Tues 6th Nov - P2 and P3 Parent/Carer Open
Morning 9.30 - 10.30am

Wed 7th Nov - P4 and P5 Parent/Carer Open
Morning 9.30-10.30am

Wed 14th Nov - P6 and P7 Parent/Carer Open
Morning 9.30-10.30am

Fri 16th Nov - Class Assembly P7/6 (Ms
Plenderleith)

Fri 23rd Nov - Class Assembly P3b (Mrs Carral)

Sat 24th Nov - Christmas Fayre

Fri 30th Nov - Class Assembly P5b (Ms Kirk)

