

Simpson Primary

News

December 2018



Simpson Primary School
Leyland Road
Wester Inch
Bathgate
EH48 2TH
Tel No: 01506 656371

E-mail address:

simpson-ps@westlothian.org.uk

Website:

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

Blog:

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

Twitter:

@SimpsonPrimary

@nurserysimpson



**Last news from
Mrs Black**



My last week at Simpson Primary School has now begun and I know that it's going to be an emotional one for me. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for a wonderful few years-it has been an absolute privilege. It is fitting that my career as Head Teacher should end in such a fabulous school and I know that I leave it in very good hands with Miss Ferris and Mrs Dandie providing strong leadership and continuity in their new roles from next year. As parents/carers you have been extremely supportive of me and I hope that my work on behalf of your children will have made even just a bit of a difference. The staff team is second to none and I'd like to thank them for their support, challenge and indulgence! Most of all I thank the children. You have lit up my life at Simpson, continue to shine brightly and remember how special you all are.



Festive News

We have had a wonderful Festive Season in school with a variety of activities taking place. Our nursery and P1 children performed wonderful nativities, our P2 and P3 children entertained us beautifully with their programme of Christmas songs, we enjoyed our special Christmas lunch and we are now enjoying our parties and Christmas related learning. Our choir has been filmed by West Lothian Council and this can be viewed on its Youtube channel. **On the last morning of term we will offer the option of dressing down (no donation required) and look forward to seeing a few festive touches or Christmas jumpers!**



Staff News

We are delighted to welcome 3 new teachers to our school next year. Mrs Dunsmore will be replacing Mrs Carral as one of our new P3 teachers and Miss McInlay will be replacing Ms Rainey and Mrs Bird.

We are also delighted to welcome Mr McCallum-McKay, as one of our new Acting Depute Head Teachers.

We extend a warm welcome to them as new members of our staff team!

We wish Mrs Carral well as she leaves to start her maternity leave and look forward to hearing about her new arrival when the time comes.

We are particularly sad to be saying goodbye to Ms Rainey, as she has been part of our school since it opened. We thank her for her years of hard work

and commitment to the children of Simpson Primary and wish her every success in her new post. She'll certainly be missed!



Name a Gritter Competition

Some of our pupils recently participated in the Name a Gritter Competition organised by West Lothian Council. Over 48,000 individual votes were cast and 8 winners were chosen. We were delighted that 2 of the 8 winners were from Simpson Primary so many congratulations to Cassidy Aitken from our nursery and Dominik Wisniewski from P7 who were our worthy winners.

Cassidy and Dominik were invited to Whitehill Depot earlier in the month, to see their gritters, to have a tour and to be congratulated on their success.

Cassidy's gritter is named *Salt-tyre* and Dominik's is called *Obi Wan Gritobi*.

We will enjoy looking out for our gritters, as they work hard to ensure our safety on the roads in the Winter weather.

Well done Cassidy and Dominik!



Sports News

A massive congratulations to our girls football squad who took part in their first tournament where they competed in their first games. Despite the cold and wet weather, the girls managed to score their first goals, keep their first clean sheets and win their first ever matches in Simpson history. The 18 girls involved are now training hard as they look forward to the next tournament in February.

Our Basketball squad have achieved excellent success in their West Lothian Wolves qualifying pool. The team went unbeaten in qualifying where they won 12 of their 14 matches, drawing the other two. An excellent return for our mix of P5, P6 and P7. The squad have now qualified for Pool A in the white conference which will be played at Armadale Academy over various dates in the New Year. The

squad are working hard with a view to qualifying for the area finals.

Last month we were especially proud of three Primary 7 pupils who represented Simpson Primary School at a West Lothian schools' swimming gala. To be in the running for the event pupils had to submit qualification times with standards being set very high. There was a large variety of distances and strokes covered. Race winners were decided on swim time and the age of the swimmer so after a nervous wait we were very excited to hear that Ewan in P7A had achieved a bronze medal in 50m Backstroke!

Well done Ewan and all those who competed.

Our netball team made their debut last month, participating in the first netball festival of the session, organised by the Bathgate Active Schools co-ordinator. They demonstrated a very good sporting attitude, finishing the competition with a mix of wins and some losses. They look forward to building on this great start!

We are also delighted that, as a result of being a sportscotland award winner, our school along with the other West Lothian winners, has been recognised by a motion submitted to the Scottish Parliament.

Neil Findlay (MSP) provided a letter to our Chief Executive highlighting West Lothian as an authority of excellence with regards to the provision of high quality PE, physical activity and sport opportunities within our schools.

We are certainly proud to have our achievements recognised in this way.



Care Inspectorate News

The Care Inspectorate recently published **Food Matters** and we are delighted that Simpson nursery has been used as a good practice example. We are very proud of this recognition and that our work can influence other early learning and childcare settings. You can view the publication using the link below.

<http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/836652/food-matters-nurturing-happy-healthy-children.pdf>



Pupil Groups

Rights Respecting Schools' Group

The Rights Respecting group would like to thank all pupils and teachers for completing our questionnaires. We have started to collate the questionnaires and look forward to analysing the information and sharing it with you all in the New Year. This will help us to inform our next steps.

At Simpson Primary school we recognise children's Right to Play. At this time of year when families are clearing out and making room for the new gifts from Santa, we would appreciate any donations of complete jigsaws or puzzles to add to our bank of resources.

If you have any of these and would like to recycle them, please hand into your child's class teacher or the school office and mark them for the attention of Mr Weir or Mrs Lurinsky.



Eco Group

The Eco group had their first meeting last term where children from across the school came together to meet with the Eco leaders to discuss a plan of action for the year ahead.

For bicycle safety week we came up with a competition to design a 'bicycle helmet of the future,' and were very impressed with the imaginative and creative entries we received. These entries also showed an awareness of the key messages of bicycle safety: Be Bright, Be Seen, Be Safe. The Eco group have already begun planning activities for next year with a view of making our school more 'green'. We have a special challenge in mind which all pupils will be given the opportunity to take part in and we hope to extend the opportunity to parents and carers, also.

There will be further updates in the New Year.



FMRC Group

It has been a busy term for the First Minister's Reading Challenge pupil group. The children gathered

some fantastic ideas for our Book Week Scotland celebrations and both staff and pupils had a fun time participating in their suggested activities. P7 pupils played an active role in the distribution of Read, Write, Count bags to P2 and P3 pupils - sharing a story and a hot chocolate - and enjoyed an afternoon with their P1 buddies reading stories and playing games from their Book Bug gift bags. As a result of our engagement and sharing our activities on Twitter, we were invited to help launch a new Twitter campaign, recommending our favourite reads for the Christmas holidays. We look forward to lots of reading time in the Christmas holidays. Please share your recommendations and photos of your books from Santa with us @simpsonprimary using #SPSLovestoRead



Lost Words Calendar 2019

Thank you to all who bought our beautiful Lost Words Calendar. If anyone would still like to purchase one, please send £5 payment to your child's class teacher in a labelled envelope and we will get a copy to you immediately. The proceeds will go to school funds and a donation made to the charity "Action for Conservation".

Thanks, Mrs Campbell



Christmas Fayre

Many thanks must go to the Parent Council Events' Team for organising a very successful Christmas Fayre again this year. It was very well attended and raised around £3600! The children's enterprise stalls also made a profit of £1238.44 - very well done! A great deal of hard work was put in by all involved, to ensure the success of this venture and is very much appreciated. Thank you!





Polar Academy

Students from Bathgate Academy, including former pupils of Simpson Primary will be taking part in an expedition to Arctic Greenland in April 2019, organised by The Polar Academy. As a school, we would like to demonstrate our support by helping to fundraise for this worthy venture and will be organising a Winter themed dress down day on Friday 1st February, for an optional small donation. A Just Giving page has also been established by Bathgate Academy and the link is below. You will also be able to find further relevant information using this link.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bathgate-academy>

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.



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 Winter is now upon us.

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/>



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>



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.



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.



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.



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

Fri 21st Dec - All break for the Christmas Holidays

Mon 7th Jan - All return for the new term

Fri 18th Jan - P5a (Miss McLaren) Class Assembly for parents/carers - 9.30am

Fri 25th Jan - P6a (Mrs Paradies) Class Assembly for parents/carers - 9.30am

Fri 1st Feb - Dress Up/Down for The Polar Academy

Wed 6th Feb - Burns Supper

Fri 8th Feb - P6b (Miss Azam) Class Assembly for parents/carers - 9.30am

Mon 18th Feb- February break (school closed to staff and pupils)

Tues 19th Feb - Staff In-service Day (school closed to pupils)

Wed 20th Feb - Pupils return

As we prepare to leave an exciting and successful 2018 behind and look forward to the opportunities that 2019 will bring, on behalf of the staff and pupils at Simpson Primary School, I would like to wish you

A Merry Christmas

and a

Happy and Peaceful New Year



A Black