

Simpson Primary

News

March 2019



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News from Miss Ferris



What a busy term we've had...

Class trips are under way and children have participated in a number of sporting festivals and afterschool clubs on top of all the wonderful learning taking place in classrooms.

Well done to our P7s who planned and organised an entertaining Burns' Supper with recitals, Scottish food, singing and dancing. It was lovely to see such a great turnout of families to support this event.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!

Parent/Carer Consultations

We look forward to welcoming all parents/carers into school next Wednesday and Thursday to meet with your child's class teacher/ nursery nurse. We will share how your child is progressing sharing strengths in learning and next steps. If you have still to book, please do so using the online booking system by Tuesday 2nd April.

P7 Residential - Kingswood

Our P7s returned home safely having had an amazing time at camp. I am so proud to hear that they received very positive feedback from their instructors about their good attitude and manners. They challenged themselves while having fun and further developed skills in teamwork and problem solving. They are looking forward to sharing more photos with parents/carers at their end of session leaving assembly.

New School Website Address

Our school website address has changed! As it has been required to secure all Primary School web addresses, the new link is as follows;

<https://simpsonprimary.westlothian.org.uk>

Cycle Friendly Schools Award

We have successfully been re-awarded our Cycle Friendly School status. Thank you to Miss McLaren for coordinating this.

House System

All children are allocated a House. Our four houses are Bruce (Blue), Castle (Yellow), James Young (Red) and Leyland (Green). Siblings will be in the same house. We are actively encouraging children to display behaviours in line with our school values; Respect, Kindness, Honesty, Courage and Fairness. Pupils can earn House Points which will be totalled each week to reveal a winning House. All pupils in the winning House will receive reward time.

SNSA

The SNSA (Scottish National Standardised Assessments) were commissioned by the Scottish Government as part of the National Improvement Framework. P1, P4 and P7 complete these online adaptive assessments in Reading, Writing and Numeracy once per year. P7 undertook these assessments in November. P4 are now currently undertaking their assessments and P1 will begin their assessments shortly after the Easter break. Your child's teacher will use this feedback to help identify strengths and to plan next steps in learning.

Information about the assessments for parents and carers can be found on the SNSA website accessed from the following link:

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

School Improvement - Behaviour Policy

As part of our work towards our school improvement priorities we have been reviewing our current Behaviour Policy. This is to refresh the policy in line with current research and literature. It is also to ensure it complements our new school values. All staff have collaborated and undertaken research in this area to identify proposed changes. We have also consulted with pupils through assemblies and class based tasks. We would now like your opinions and ideas. Please look out for the display boards at our Parent/Carer consultations next week for more information and the opportunity to share your views. Once all views have been collated, we will draft the new policy for feedback.

Family Learning Sessions

Thank you to all parents/carers who were able to join us for our 4 sessions based around the following themes; Growth Mindset/ Resilience, Literacy, Numeracy and Coping with emotions. We have received very positive feedback and hence would like to offer these and/or other themes next session. If you attended, please look out for the evaluation popping into your email box to help us to continue to meet your interests. Thank you again to Miss Hunter for volunteering to deliver these sessions and to both Mrs Rendle and Mr Weir for their input on Numeracy and Nurturing Schools.

Breakfast Club

As numbers attending the Breakfast Club increase, it has been brought to our attention that children are crowding into the foyer area causing health & safety concerns. To prevent this, the children will now line up in a single line which extends out into the Nursery side of the front entrance. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this change. We would like to take this opportunity to make parents/carers aware that there is no allocation of supervision for this area prior to 8.00am. Please encourage your child to join the end of the line on arrival.

Staff News

We have experienced a number of staff absences over the last few months. To ensure continuity in learning and teaching, classes have been supported and covered by members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Where necessary we have secured external supply cover to meet demand.

We would like to say a warm welcome back to Mrs Clark and Mrs McCallum who have both now returned from maternity leave. Mrs Clark has taken over responsibility for P6a replacing Mrs Paradise who has now left to begin her maternity leave. We look forward to hearing news of her new arrival very soon.

We are delighted to have heard news that Mrs Black's daughter has seen the safe arrival of her healthy baby boy. A big congratulations to Mrs Black on becoming a grandparent.

GENERAL INFORMATION / REGULAR REMINDERS

Traffic Issues – 2 near misses reported

Please be reminded that the **school car park is not a drop off/pick up zone** and that clear signage is in place indicating this.

Despite numerous requests we are disappointed to report that some parents/carers continue to use the staff car park to drop off their children. This has recently led to potentially dangerous incidents which could have resulted in serious injury. We have also observed children walking/running through the car park between cars unaware of the danger around them. Please ensure your child uses the footpaths provided.

Let's keep our children safe.

Allergies

Please remember that due to having a number of children in our school who have a severe nut allergy, we are a **nut free school**. Your support with this would be much appreciated. Thank you.

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.

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>

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>

IMPORTANT DATES



<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Fri 29 th Mar – 9.30am	P4a Class Assembly for parents/carers
Fri 29 th Mar	Parent Council Race Night for parents/carers – details from PC
Wed 3 rd Apr – 5.00-8.00pm Thurs 4 th Apr – 3.45-6.45pm	Parent/carer consultations
Fri 5 th Apr	Parent Council Dress down day for pupils – details to follow from PC
Fri 5 th Apr	Last day of term
Tues 23 rd Apr	Pupils and staff return for first day of new term
Fri 26 th Apr – 9.30am	P4b Class Assembly for parents/carers
Tues 30 th Apr - 6.30pm	Parent Council Meeting
Fri 3 rd May – 9.30am	P2b Class Assembly for parents/carers
Mon 6 th May	Pupils and staff on holiday
Tues 7 th May	Staff in-service day – School closed to Pupils
Thurs 16 th May – 6.30pm	P6&7 School Show
Fri 17 th May – 10.00am	P6&7 School Show
Tues 21 st May	P3 Cycle Taster Sessions - P3a
Wed 22 nd May	P3 Cycle Taster Sessions - P3b
Fri 24 th May – 9.30am	P3a Class Assembly for parents/carers
Mon 27 th May	P3 Cycle Taster Sessions – P3 of P3/2
Tues 28 th May	P3 Cycle Taster Sessions – P3c
Wed 29 th May	School Sports Day – details to follow
Thurs 30 th May – 6.30pm	Nursery/P1 Transition Meeting – for parents/carers of P1 Aug 2019 intake