

Simpson Primary

News

August 2019



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News from Miss Ferris



Welcome back to our new school session 2019-20 and a special warm welcome to our new pupils and their families. We are looking forward to working in partnership with all of you and are confident that your child/children will have a happy and successful time here at Simpson. We have welcomed 102 P1s as well as new pupils at various stages across the school. Our nursery is also beginning to fill up as we welcome our youngest children. Our P1s are quickly familiarising themselves with their new routines, ably supported by their fantastic P7 buddies. The children have already demonstrated their excitement for learning and are ready for the challenges awaiting them.

Staffing Update

As shared in my last correspondence to you, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Rendle, Chartered Teacher, who had responsibility for Support for Learning across the school. We thank her for all her hard work on behalf of the children at Simpson and wish her well in her new promoted post. Mrs Plenderleith and Mrs MacKenzie have now taken over this role. As Mrs MacKenzie was scheduled to provide reduced class contact time, we are currently recruiting to appoint an additional teacher to backfill this post.

We have welcomed a number of new staff to the school - Mrs Fawkes who has joined our team as Depute Head Teacher. She will be taking over the remit of Early Level as Mrs Dandie leaves to commence her maternity leave in October. Mrs McQuarrie (APT), Miss Centrangelo (P2), Mrs Knowles (P6), Mrs Mills (RCCT), Miss McMoran and Mrs Brown (Nursery) also join us. Miss Bennie (P5) and Mrs McGregor (P5) too as they have returned from maternity leave.

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.

Congratulations also to our newly married teacher Ms Jenks-Brown. We wish her every happiness for the future.

Our Senior Leadership Team now comprises;

Head Teacher – Miss Ferris

Depute Head Teacher – Mrs Fawkes

Acting Depute Head Teacher – Mrs Dandie

Acting Depute Head Teacher – Mr McCallum-McKay

Acting Principal Teacher – Mr Weir

Acting Principal Teacher – Ms Plenderleith

Acting Principal Teacher – Mrs McQuarrie

Our school class structure for session 2019-20 is as follows;

P1a – Mr McPherson
P1b – Mrs McCallum
P1c – Mrs Lurinsky
P1d – Mrs MacLean
P2/1 – Mrs Davies
P2a – Miss Cetrangolo
P2b – Ms H Jenks-Brown
P2c – Miss Butler
P3a – Miss McGregor
P3b – Miss Blyth
P3c – Mrs Dunsmore
P4/3 – Miss Hunter
P4a – Mrs Smith
P4b – Miss Azam
P4c – Mr Brice/ Mrs Clark
P5a – Ms Kirk
P5b – Miss Scott
P5c – Miss Bennie/Mrs McGregor
P6a – Mrs Wallace/ Mrs McQuarrie
P6b – Mrs Knowles
P6c – Mrs Rutter
P7a – Miss McKinlay
P7b – Mr Aitken
P7c – Miss Clarke

RCCT – Mrs Macandrew, Mrs Mills, Mrs MacKenzie, Vacancy

PE Specialist - Mr Tennant

Support for Learning – Mrs MacKenzie/ Ms Plenderleith

P1 Phonics Workshop

We look forward to welcoming P1 parents/carers to join us for a P1 phonic workshop session followed by a class visit to see literacy in action on Monday 2nd Sep at 2.00pm.

Meet the Teacher

All staff are looking forward to meeting you at the upcoming and coming Meet the Teacher sessions. These will take place on Wed and Thurs of next week. Please make every effort to attend as information differs from one stage to the next. It is an excellent opportunity to find out about the year ahead from the outset. See separate letter for further details. Please note these sessions are for P2-7 only as the transition meetings held at the end of last session for P1 parents/carers and our nursery open morning in June 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 2019-20

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.

As we continue to refine and develop our curriculum learning pathways, we will focus this session on Writing, Modern Languages 1+2 – French and Spanish and Digital Technologies.

In Health and Wellbeing we will focus on developing children's ability to articulate their emotions and demonstrate resilience, a vital skill for life.

Other improvements will include enhancing our outdoor environment creating an active playground which promotes positive peer relationships.

Our Standards and Quality Report for parents/carers session 2018-19 will soon be available on our website and further details of our School Improvement Plan priorities for session 2019-20 will also be shared with you at that time.

Flu Vaccination Programme

Letters have been distributed on behalf of the NHS providing further information. Vaccinations will take place on **Thurs 10th October**. Please notify the school office if you have not received your letter.

Parental engagement

Last session our work on parental engagement led to the introduction of our Family Learning Sessions. Due to the positive feedback received we will be providing a further opportunity to attend these this session.

Please look on our website to view materials from these workshops and also materials to help you to support your child with numeracy & maths at home.

We will continue to add to these resources for parents/carers this session.

Communication

We aim to share information with parents/carers in a variety of ways. Listed below are the methods we use and their purpose.

School Website

Our website 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

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.

<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.

@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 will be the most effective way to arrange a meeting.

School Meals

Our kitchen refurbishments are well underway. We will keep you updated of proposed completion dates.

Details of the menu options for each day, plus recommendations for packed lunches and healthy recipe ideas to use at home can be found on our school website.

From 1st April 2019 primary school meals will cost **£2.11 per day** for the primary school menu.

Please note: all Primary 1 to Primary 3 children are entitled to free school meals.

We would be grateful if all parents/carers could pay any outstanding payments for school lunches on iPayimpact as soon as possible.

GENERAL INFORMATION / REGULAR REMINDERS

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.

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. We are very disappointed that despite regular requests and reminders there are a number of parents/carers continuing to enter the car park to drop children off at breakfast club.

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 request that you **do not send food containing nuts into school**. Your support with this would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Personal Data

Each school session we check the data held on your child and it is vital we are notified of any changes as soon as possible, in particular, home/ mobile telephone numbers and address. This will ensure that our records are up to date at all times.

Uniform

Please be reminded of our 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 standard in our school dress.

We will be working closely with the Parent Council to arrange recycling of school uniform in the form of a 'Swap Shop' and will notify you of these opportunities in due course. 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.

Class Assemblies

Class teachers are currently selecting dates for their class assemblies. We would like to welcome parents/carers to join us for our class assemblies this session. These will take place on Fridays at 11.30am in the school gym hall. Individual class dates to follow.

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.

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 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.

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>



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 2019-20. 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>

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Mon 2 nd September	P1 phonic workshop for parents/carers 2.00-2.30pm Classroom visit 2.45-3.15pm
Wed 4 th September Thurs 5 th September	Meet the Teacher Sessions – see separate letter for dates and times for individual stages.
Thurs 12 th September	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Fri 13 th September	Class Assembly – P4b (Miss Azam) 11.30am
Mon 16 th September	Holiday – school closed to pupils and staff
Tues 17 th September	Inservice Day – school closed to pupils
Fri 27 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning 10.15-11.15am
Commencing September	P6 Bikeability – letter will be issued next week with dates for individual classes.
Fri 4 th October	Class Assembly – P2b (Ms Jenks-Brown) 11.30am
Thurs 10 th October	Flu Vaccination Programme
Wed 9 th October – 5.00-8.00pm Thurs 10 th October – 3.45-6.45pm	Parent/Carer consultations with staff – separate letter to follow
Fri 11 th October	Class Assembly - P5a (Ms Kirk) 11.30am
Fri 11 th October	Last day of term
Mon 21 st October	Inservice Day – school closed to pupils
Tue 22 nd October	First day of new term – school open to pupils and staff