

Simpson Primary

News

October 2019



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News from Miss

Ferris

Our Values



Staff News

We are delighted to announce that Mr Weir has successfully completed his MSc in Professional Education and Leadership. He will receive his qualification in due course. This has involved a great deal of hard work and commitment, over and above his day job. Well done and congratulations Mr Weir! Ms Plenderleith has started the Msc in Professional Education and Leadership course at Stirling University this session and Miss Hunter recently began her journey on the SCEL teacher leadership course. We would like to wish them the best of luck in their studies. I am delighted we have a staff so dedicated to professional development and are delighted that this is impacting positively on the school. We would also like to offer best wishes to Mrs Dandie who will be commencing her maternity leave at the end of term. We look forward to hearing news of her new arrival.

Parent/staff consultations

We look forward to meeting you this week at our parent/staff consultations. We hope that you will find this a valuable experience, gaining insight into your child's progress in learning including strengths and next steps. If you haven't already done so, please take time to book an appointment on our online booking system. If you are having any difficulties, please contact the school office. Osbourne Books will be available in the foyer on both nights for anyone who would like to purchase a book. We would like to thank our Parent Council for organising this.

Flu Vaccinations

Please remember, as previously communicated to you directly by NHS Lothian, that flu vaccinations will take place in school on Thurs 10th Oct. If you haven't already returned the consent form for your child, please do so as soon as possible.

School Performances

As part of our Expressive Arts curriculum we endeavour to provide children with opportunities to participate in performances to parents/carers throughout the year. In addition to our class assemblies this session, P1 will perform their nativities in December and P7 will perform their own show later in May. We will also have the experience of working with Rookie Rockstars team to put on a school performance highlighting the importance of friendships and anti-bullying. More information to follow.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are delighted to share that the fantastic sum of £1,134.67 was raised at our recent Macmillan Coffee Morning. Our **Primary 6 pupils** did a wonderful job of organising this event and we had great support from the school community. In addition to this **Molly Firth** (P6a) also raised £162.81 from selling cakes in the community. Thank you to everyone who supported this very worthwhile cause. I would also like to thank our Pupil Support Worker team and our P6 staff, Mrs Rutter, Mrs McQuarrie, Mrs Knowles and Mrs Wallace.

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 at key points as part of our ongoing summative assessment. 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/>

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.

There is a very good information leaflet produced by Internet Matters which offers information, guidance and strategies for parents to help them tackle this.

Please take time to have a look –

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/guide-to-managing-children-screen-time/>

Continuous School Improvement

Please note that our Standard and Quality Report for last session and our School Improvement Plan for 2019-20 are now available to view on our school website. A copy of our school handbook is also on our website which will be updated shortly.

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.

First Minister's Reading Challenge

Ms Plenderleith has once again registered us for the First Minister's Reading Challenge, an exciting reading initiative for children in Primary and Secondary Schools, delivered by Scottish Book Trust on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Your child has been given a Reading Passport to keep track of their reading journey during the Challenge. There is space for them to fill in their thoughts about a book when they record it in their passport; this could be a few sentences, a picture or they can simply leave it blank and colour in a number of stars to show how much they enjoyed it. They will have the opportunity to create their own reading challenges, as well as taking part with the wider school. You will find information about how you can support your child on the Reading Challenge website, <https://www.readingchallenge.scot/>

Wet Interval – Can you help?

Please dress your child suitable for adverse weather so that they can enjoy the outdoors at break and lunch times even when there is a little rain. On occasions where the weather is particularly wet, children will be kept safe indoors so they are not sitting in wet clothes for the remainder of the day. If you would like to donate any of the following items to 'top up' our wet interval boxes, it would be greatly appreciated;

- Board Games - Chess, Draughts, Snakes & Ladders etc.
- Lego
- Mindful Colouring books
- Crosswords
- Sudoku

Items can be brought into the school office.

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

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. This includes breakfast club.
Let's keep our children safe.

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.

Uniform

Please be reminded that our uniform comprises navy trousers/skirts with sky blue shirts/polo shirts and navy sweatshirts/jumpers/cardigans. 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.

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 products containing nuts. Your support with this would be much appreciated. Thank you.

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>

Cycle Friendly School

As a cycle friendly school promoting Bikeability, we ask that you support us in encouraging children who cycle to school to **wear a helmet**.

Be Safe Be Seen

As the darker nights draw in, please encourage your child to wear bright clothing when out and about so that they can be easily seen when crossing the road.

School Meals

We are delighted with our new school kitchen and the children are very excited about having their hot meal service return.

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.

How much do school meals cost?

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.

IMPORTANT DATES



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>

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Wed 9 th Oct – 5.00-8.00pm and Thurs 9 th Oct – 3.45-6.45pm	Parent/Staff Consultations
Fri 11 th Oct – 11.30am	P5a Class Assembly
Fri 11 th Oct	Last day of term
Mon 14 th Oct – Fri 18 th Oct	Holidays – School & Nursery closed to staff and pupils
Mon 21 st Oct	In-service day – School closed to pupils/ Nursery open to pupils
Wed 30 th Oct – 9.30-10.30am	P5, P6 & P7 Parent/Carer Open Morning
Fri 1 st Nov – 1130am	P3b Class Assembly
Wed 6 th Nov – 9.30-10.30am	P3 & P4 Parent/Carer Open Morning
Wed 6 th Nov – 2.00-3.00pm	P1 & P2 Parent/Carer Open Morning
Thurs 7 th Nov – 6.30pm	Parent Council Meeting
Fri 8 th Nov – 11.30am	P6b Class Assembly
Wed 20 th Nov – 6.30pm and Thurs 21 st Nov – 6.30pm	Rookie Rockstars Performance (to be confirmed) – separate letter to follow
Fri 22 nd Nov – 11.30am	P2/1 Class Assembly
Fri 29 th Nov – 11.30am	P5b Class Assembly
Sat 30 th Nov	Parent Council Christmas Fayre – details to follow from PC
Wed 4 th Dec	School Christmas Lunch – (tbc) separate letter to follow
Thurs 5 th Dec – 10.00am and 2.00pm	Nursery Nativity
Wed 11 th Dec – 11.00am P1a Mr McPherson & P1b Mrs McCallum	P1 Nativity
Wed 11 th Dec – 2.00pm P1c Mrs Lurinsky, P1d Mrs Maclean and P1 Mrs Davies	P1 Nativity
Mon 16 th Dec – 10.00am	P1 Christmas Party
Mon 16 th Dec – 2.00pm	P2 Christmas Party
Tues 17 th Dec – 10.00am	P3 Christmas Party
Tues 17 th Dec – 2.00pm	P4 Christmas Party
Wed 18 th Dec – 2.00pm	P5 Christmas Party
Thurs 19 th Dec – 9.00am and 2.00pm	Nursery Christmas Party
Thurs 19 th Dec – 2.00pm	P6 Christmas Party
Fri 20 th Dec -10.00am	P7 Christmas Party
Fri 20 th Dec	Last day of term
Mon 23 rd Dec – Fri 3 rd Jan	Holidays – School & Nursery closed to staff and pupils
Mon 6 th Jan	In-service day – School closed to pupils/ Nursery open to pupils