

# Simpson Primary

## News

December 2019



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### News from Miss Ferris



#### Festive News

Our busy festive season has begun! Children have decorated our hall with fun festive art work to provide a colourful backdrop for our Parent Council Christmas Fayre last Saturday. It was a great success and we would like to thank everyone who made it along to show their support. An extra big thank you goes to Emma, Nicola and Jen for coordinating the event. The children had a great time selling their enterprise products impressing us with their sales skills.

Our nursery have performed a wonderful Singalong and Primary 1 children are busy preparing for their upcoming nativities. We have had our school Christmas Lunch and now have our Christmas parties to look forward to.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our children and families a lovely Christmas break and best wishes for the New Year.

#### Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who joined in our dress down for Children in Need and made a donation. We raised **£473.16** towards this fantastic cause.

#### Staff News

We are delighted to announce that another member of staff, Mrs McQuarrie, has successfully completed her MSc in Professional Education and Leadership.

This has involved a great deal of hard work and commitment. Well done and congratulations Mrs McQuarrie! I am delighted our staff team are so dedicated to professional development that continues to impact positively on our school.

We would also like share the news that Mrs Dandie gave birth to a new arrival. Congratulations on the birth of your beautiful baby girl.

At the end of this term we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Mills who has been covering Mrs Carral's maternity leave. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Mills for her hard work as a valued member of our team. Mrs Carral will be returning from maternity after the Christmas break in January.

#### Christmas Jumpers/ Dress Down

There is no requirement for pupils to wear a Christmas jumper. If children do have one and wish to wear it, we are happy for them to do so on National Christmas jumper day - **Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec**. We will also offer the option to dress down or wear a Christmas jumper on the last morning of term **Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec**.

**NO DONATIONS** are required on either of these dates. Children should continue to wear school uniform on all other dates.

## Parent/Carer Open Mornings

Thank you to parents/carers and visitors who made it along to our open mornings. The children were very excited to share their learning with you. I hope you found the experience worthwhile and enjoyed your time in school. We have sent out an evaluation to gather your thoughts and would be grateful if you could take some time to complete this. The information gathered will help us to plan and further improve such events in future years.

## Novo Virus Advice

Norovirus outbreaks can be a common occurrence during the winter months. These can cause service disruption with staff shortages and many pupils being absent from school/nursery. Norovirus outbreaks can happen at any time of year but are more prevalent during the winter months. Cases usually start to appear during the autumn, peaking during January.

The symptoms usually last for 12 to 60 hours and often start with the sudden onset of nausea followed by projectile vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

Norovirus is very infectious and it takes a very small amount of the virus to cause ongoing spread.

We would like you to support us in preventing the spread of any virus through reinforcing the importance good hygiene such as hand washing, covering your mouth when coughing and using a tissue.

**Pupils should remain absent from school for at least 48 hours after the last episode of sickness to prevent the spread to others.**

Thank you for your assistance with this.

## Christmas Parties

Please note children can come to school dressed in their party clothes on the day of their party. If you have an afternoon party they can choose to bring their clothes to change into at lunch time or wear them for the full day. If you wish to take your child home for lunch to change, please write a note to your child's teacher and you can collect your child from the school office.

## Rookie Rockstars

I would like to say a big thank you to all the children and families who supported our whole school Rookie Rockstars performance. This was an extremely fun way of spreading important messages across the school community in relation to Anti-bullying and Self Esteem.

## West Lothian Parent Portal

If you haven't already signed up for the West Lothian Parent Portal please click on the link below;

<https://parentsportal.scot/home/>

Services available include Annual Data Check, View Attendance, View Timetable (secondary) & access to iPayimpact. Next service due for release will be Permission Slips/Consent Forms for trips etc. Further information can be found

at <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/44151/parentsportal-scot>

Once you have registered our school Admin will individually approve each record.

Please note it is important that the details you register with match the Seemis record we have in school.

Please report any difficulties in registering for the system to the school email address below;

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

We would appreciate your patience as we process all individual requests.

## Book Bug and Read, Write, Count Packs

All P1 children have now been gifted their Book Bug packs and P2 & P3 children have received their Read, Write and Count packs. We would encourage you to explore the resources provided with your child to further enhance learning at home. If anyone did not receive their pack, please contact the school office.

## Traffic Issues – Health & Safety

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.**



## **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.

### **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 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 11.00am P1a Mr McPherson & P1b Mrs McCallum	P1 Nativity
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00pm P1c Mrs Lurinsky, P1d Mrs MacLean & P1 Mrs Davies	P1 Nativity
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Election Day – School and Nursery open to pupils
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 10.00am	P1 Christmas Party
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00pm	P2 Christmas Party
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 10.00am	P3 Christmas Party
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00pm	P4 Christmas Party
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00pm	P5 Christmas Party
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 9.00am and 2.00pm	Nursery Christmas Party
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 2.00pm	P6 Christmas Party
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 10.00am	P7 Christmas Party
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of term
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Holidays – School & Nursery closed to staff & pupils
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	In-service day – <b>School closed</b> to pupils/ <b>Nursery open</b> to pupils
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan – 11.30am	Class Assembly – P4a – Mrs Smith
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 6.30pm	Parent Council Meeting
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan – 11.30am	Class Assembly – P6a – Mrs Wallace & Mrs McQuarrie
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 6.30pm	P7 Burns' Supper