

# Simpson Primary

## News

February 2020



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

**E-mail address:**

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

**Website:**

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

**Blog:**

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

**Twitter:**

@SimpsonPrimary

@nurserysimpson



### News from Miss Ferris

**Our Values**



#### What a busy start to the New Year!

Following New Year celebrations, we have had an exciting start to the term. We are very proud of our P7 pupils who put on a fantastic Burns Supper last week. We were entertained with singing, dancing and poetry followed by a feast of haggis, neaps & tatties.

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions especially Mr Leslie's ceilidh band and Mr Costello for his animated address to the haggis.

There's lots more to look forward to with our Family Learning Event and workshops approaching. It would be lovely if you were able to support these events.

#### Staff News

We are delighted to confirm that following interviews and employment checks Mrs Dandie was successful and is officially our permanent Depute Head Teacher. Congratulations! She will continue in her role on a permanent basis following her return from maternity leave. Mr McCallum-McKay will continue to cover the maternity in his role as Acting Depute Head Teacher. Mrs Fawkes will also continue in her seconded role as our second Depute Head Teacher.

We had a tearful farewell to Mrs Bambrough who has now taken up her new post of Acting Early Years Officer at Dechmont Nursery.

We would like to wish a warm welcome to Mrs Tomczynski who has taken on the post of Early Years Officer in our Nursery to fill this vacancy. We are sure she will enjoy being part of the Simpson Team.

At the end of this month, we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Rutter who has accepted a permanent post of Class Teacher at Springfield Primary School as shared in recent communication.

#### Family Learning

Following positive feedback received last session in regards to our Family Learning sessions, we have decided to run these again. The sessions will run on the following dates

from 6.00pm-7.00pm;

Session 1 – Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Feb

Session 2 – Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Feb

Session 3 – Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Mar

Session 4 – Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Mar

Themes include; Values & Behaviour, Emotion Works, Literacy and Numeracy. Further information can be found on the flyer distributed earlier this week.

It would be great to see you there.

## Wuhan Coronavirus

You may be aware of the evolving outbreak of respiratory illness in China, centred around Wuhan in Hubei province, caused by a novel (new) coronavirus.

NHS Lothian has contacted all Head Teachers providing advice on the Coronavirus. NHS Lothian has provided public health advice from the UK Government and the NHS. The links are to this advice are:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

NHS Lothian Public Health state that the risk to people in this country is low.

### Smart Watches

Recently we have seen an increase in the number of children wearing smart watches in school. If a watch has the facility to text, phone or take pictures/videos we must treat these in the same way as mobile phones. Currently, any child bringing a mobile phone to school must pass this to their teacher for safe keeping throughout the day. The phone will be returned so that the child has it for their journey home. Any child using their smart device within the school or playground becomes a Child Protection risk as children are at risk of having their photos taken when they do not have parental permission. It is also not necessary for children to be phoning parents/carers during school hours. If any child requires to speak with a parent/carer, this call would be made from the school office.

We fully support the use of technologies in a safe and controlled manner. Our Digital Technologies team are currently looking into a 'Bringing Your Own Device' project where technologies will enhance learning and teaching in the classroom.

We would really appreciate your support in reminding children to hand in their devices first thing to eliminate any further issues.

## Eco News

Our Eco group have been working hard and thinking of different ways that we can reduce, reuse and recycle in school and at home.

Some new and ongoing initiatives include:

- Our classroom Eco monitors work hard to save energy by turning off lights and the smart board when we're not in the room.
- We make sure to turn taps off after we wash our hands to save water.
- We support our school's decision to replace single-use plastic bottles with cups and jugs of water. This has cut down on a lot of waste!
- Our writing materials recycling scheme. Most classrooms now have a recycling box for pens and you can also find a box in the school foyer if you would like to help us recycle.

### West Lothian Foodbank Donations

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our West Lothian Foodbank collection. This charity event was driven by four of our pupils; Ava, Ellie, Lauren and Freya. I am very proud of their efforts to support such an important cause. We are delighted to report that they managed to collect the equivalent of 402 meals.

Well done everyone!

### 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;

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

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

## 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**.

## 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>
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holiday – school closed to pupils and staff
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holiday – school closed to pupils and staff
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	In-service day – school closed to pupils/ Nursery is open
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School and Nursery open to pupils
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb (6.00-7.00pm)	Family Learning Session 1
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb (6.00-7.00pm)	Family Learning Session 2
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb (11.30am)	Class assembly – P2a
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Whole School Family Learning Event – Our Writing Culture All parents/carers welcome
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar (11.30am)	Class assembly – P2c
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar (6.00-7.00pm)	Family Learning Session 3
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Dress Down Day for Sports Relief
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar (11.30am)	Class assembly – P4c
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	P7 Residential Week
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar (6.00-7.00pm)	Family Learning Session 4
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar (11.30am)	Class assembly – P5c
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar (11.30am)	Class assembly – P3c
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr (5.00-8.00pm)	Parent/Carer Meetings – separate letter to follow
Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr (3.45-6.45pm)	Parent/Carer Meetings – separate letter to follow
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Last day of term Parent Council Dress Down Day for school funds
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	School and Nursery re-opens to pupils and staff
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr (11.30am)	Class assembly – P6c
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr (6.30pm)	Parent Council Meeting – Simpson PS
Thur 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Save the date – PC Bingo night (tbc)
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> May (11.30am)	Class assembly – P3a