

Simpson Primary

News

May 2020



Simpson Primary School
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A message from Miss Ferris



Thank you!

I would like to say a very big thank you to all our parents/carers for continuing to support your children with their home learning.

Our Simpson team are continuing to work hard to support all our children and families. If you require any further support, please do get in touch.

Our wish for our children is that they remain happy, healthy and safe.

Following the recent government announcement, we are looking at how this will translate down to local level. Recovery planning is ongoing and we are anticipating further guidance from our local authority in the coming weeks. We appreciate your patience while we undertake the necessary arrangements. We will keep you informed as soon as we have confirmation of arrangements.

**Remember we are all in this together.
You are doing a great job.**

Staffing Update

We would like to congratulate our Acting Principal Teachers; Mr Weir, Ms Plenderleith and Mrs McQuarrie. Following recent interviews, they were successful and are now our permanent Principal Teachers. We are delighted that they will be continuing with us on a permanent basis in their leadership roles at Simpson Primary.

Class Structure

We have confirmation of our class structure for session 2020/2021. This will comprise 23 classes plus our Nursery Class and will be as follows;

Nursery

P1a, P1b, P1c, P1d

P2a, P2b, P2c

P3/2, P3a, P3b, P3c

P4a, P4b, P4c

P5a, P5b, P5c

P6a, P6b, P6c

P7a, P7b, P7c

Although our roll has continued to rise, this structure allows a reduction of one class compared with this session as we currently have 24 classes plus our Nursery Class.

This will require some re-structuring of the current year groups for next session. We will endeavour to make as few changes as necessary. Staff will be spending a lot of time over the next few weeks organising these classes, based on their in-depth knowledge of the children and what will best suit their individual needs. We look forward to confirming class teacher allocations and classes following the completion of this task and taking into account the outcome of our recent Class Teacher interviews.

Parent Council Updates

School might be closed but we are still trying our best to keep everyone updated with what's going on and sharing important information on our Facebook page. We will continue to share information with regards to what happens next and transition etc. Please help us reach as many people as possible by letting them know how to find us, either on Facebook or by email.

Facebook: Simpson Primary & Nursery Parent Council - Wester Inch – Bathgate

Email: simpson.parentcouncil@gmail.com

Paying it Forward

As most of you will be aware Bathgate procession and John Newlands day has been cancelled this year due to the Coronavirus crisis, with this in mind the Newlands team have been thinking about the funds they have raised this year so far.

We are very aware of the hardship some families in our immediate area are facing due to the crisis and we would like to offer some constructive support from the Newlands float fund.

Boghall Drop in centre (BDIC) are offering vital co-ordinated support to the local community (Wester Inch included) by a number of means: care packages for the elderly, support for people isolating, breakfast & lunch for children due to school closures, access to computers for GLOW etc, materials for children's activities, social distancing bike rides for children and much more.

Through a partnership with social bite they are providing lunches daily, they make 150 for both Saturday and Sunday and are also making hot meals and providing food bags twice a week.

We are delighted to confirm that after a unanimous vote with our voting members we have purchased a £500 Morrison's voucher to allow them to buy the things they need to continue their amazing work. Please check their Facebook page or website should you need any additional support just now.

P7 Leavers' Hoodies & Year Books

The team of parents co-ordinating the leavers' hoodies have now distributed them and are working to finalise the yearbook, which will follow shortly.

Ribbons of Hope & Support

We know the children are all missing each other and that parents are really grateful for all of the effort our teaching staff are putting in so we thought we would try and see if we can all show each other how much.

We've seen some of our friends at other schools are using ribbons to show their support for each other as a visual connection.

If you would like to join in, we invite you to tie a ribbon to the school railings and let's see if we can make it all the way along. If you don't have ribbon a bit of string would work.

We only ask that you tie them on really securely so that they don't come loose and fly away!

Lots of you have taken part already, thank you.

Protect your child online

We are really pleased with the levels of engagement we are seeing from pupils in our online learning spaces. It is fantastic to see everyone working so hard in these uncertain times. We would like to reiterate that any photographs or videos shared online, e.g.

Twitter, should not contain your child's name alongside the photograph. With regards to our online Teams spaces, we appreciate it is difficult to control what your child chooses to post, however, it is important to remember that photographs and videos posted must be appropriate and relevant to the learning that is taking place. If your child would like to share a photograph or video of themselves in our Teams space, they can do so only within their own Notebook. This ensures that the photograph/video is only shared with your child's teacher(s). These will then only ever be used for assessment purposes by staff members. Pupils should not, therefore post any photographs or videos of themselves within the 'chat' section of their online Teams space.

Assemblies

Assemblies have been well received and we have been delighted to see a high number of children and families joining us. We hope you've enjoyed the different themes and singing along in your living room as much as we have. Assemblies will continue on Fridays on a fortnightly basis. P6-7 will go live at 10.45am and P4-5 at 11.30am. The assembly will also be uploaded to the blog for P1-3 to view at their leisure. We are very proud of all the work you are doing and look forward to sharing shout outs in relation to the challenges.

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.

As we are moving towards the end of term, we thought it timely to remind parents/carers of requirements before uniform items are bought. We have researched into different providers and have decided to offer you two companies from which to purchase uniform with school logo. We hope that this will ensure prices remain competitive. Further information on this to follow.

Transition Nursery-P1

Parents/carers of our new P1 children should now have received our welcome letter and an outline of activities we have planned to support transition from Nursery into P1. These activities will be added to the blog. Further information and documentation will follow early in June and will be available on our website. We will continue to use groupcall to notify you when these are available to view.

Transition P7-S1

Bathgate Academy

Transition packs have now been sent for those children due to attend Bathgate Academy next session. P7 pupils have been added to an S1 Teams group where they are invited to participate in weekly transition activities.

Please see the Bathgate Academy website and the links below for further information.

<https://twitter.com/bathacadnews/status/1258048570411880448?s=12>

<https://twitter.com/bathacadnews/status/1261318010377252867?s=12>

St Kentigern's Academy

Transition packs have now been sent for those children due to attend St. Kentigern's Academy next session. This includes a letter to indicate which house group pupils have been placed into. They are offering a 'hotline' from 2-3pm (Mon-Thurs) on 07564056723 for transition queries.

The link below has been provided containing further information.

<https://sway.office.com/t3gTwlw8I3R2A2O5?ref=email>

COVID-19 Information and Updates

Coronavirus (COVID-19) information and updates can be viewed on the Council website at:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/coronavirus>

and

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools>

Personal Data

Please advise the school office via email, 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 and is of even more importance during this current time of school closure.

Reminder of Points of Contact during School Closure

It is important that our digital platforms, e.g. Teams, remain a classroom environment for staff and pupils.

We would appreciate it if parents could send any queries to our school email at -

wlsimpson-ps@westlothian.org.uk

Our Admin staff will respond or forward to the most relevant member of staff who can help.

This is especially important as it will prevent instances where parents have emailed members of staff who have been absent and as we have been unaware, we have been unable to respond on their behalf.

Any specific concerns regarding your child can be emailed to our Senior Leadership Team as follows;

Second Level

P7 – Ms Plenderleith

kelly.plenderleith@westlothian.org.uk

P6 – Mrs McQuarrie

l.mcquarrie@westlothian.org.uk

P5 – Mr Weir

brian.weir@westlothian.org.uk

First Level

P2, P3 and P4 – Mr McCallum-McKay

a.mccallum-mckay@westlothian.org.uk

Early Level

Nursery and P1 – Mrs Fawkes

carol.fawkes@westlothian.org.uk

We will endeavour to respond in a timely manner and thank you for your patience, as enquiry rates have been particularly high at this time.

Role of Hub School at Simpson

West Lothian Council have identified HUB Schools across the authority to provide childcare for key workers who have no alternative childcare in order to undertake their critical work.

The HUB schools provide childcare Monday-Friday between the hours of 8am and 6pm, with a hot lunch provided. If you are a critical worker you can register for this service by following the process outlined at; <https://westlothian.gov.uk/article/51906/Keyworker-Childcare>

Simpson PS has been chosen as a HUB school for the Bathgate area. It is coordinated by the Head Teacher's across the cluster and takes in a small number of children. The children are from a variety of different schools as it is not only open to Simpson pupils. Staff from different schools work on a voluntary basis using a rota system.

Some of our Teachers at Simpson who have been volunteering have also been placed at other HUB schools in the authority where required.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff who have been supporting the HUB schools to provide this service.

WLC Play Areas

All WLC play areas continue to remain closed. WLC would like to offer a polite reminder that public parks can be used for exercise as long as the national government rules on social distancing are adhered to.

Please avoid, where possible, touching potentially contaminated surfaces in public parks including play equipment, outdoor gym equipment, park furniture, handrails, gates, and signage etc. Children's play areas, ball courts, skate parks, and outdoor gyms remain closed until further notice. Please do not use them, even if no-one else is present.

It's also important that those exercising should, at all times, continue to do so alone or with members of their household.

Any resident witnessing an issue that causes a public safety concern regarding people ignoring the national government rules on social distancing, can report such incidences to the police on 101.'

IMPORTANT DATES



DATE	EVENT
Thurs 28 th May	Nursery/P1 Transition Meeting – As this scheduled event has been cancelled, we will issue information electronically and via our website early in June. We will send a Groupcall message to alert you when this documentation is available to view.
Mon 8 th June	Holiday for pupils and staff
Tues 9 th June – Fri 12 th June	Scheduled Transition week for P7 pupils attending S1 at Bathgate Academy – further information of alternative arrangements to follow