

# Simpson Primary

## News

August - September 2020



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**Blog:**

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

**Twitter:**

@SimpsonPrimary

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### **News from Miss Ferris**

Welcome back to our new school session 2020-2021 and a special warm welcome to our new pupils and their families. I am delighted with the way staff and pupils have coped with the re-opening of school buildings and our return to school. There has been a lot of additional preparation but we feel the risk assessment and protocols in place are robust. We will continue to review these regularly in line with government and local authority guidance. We are in our recovery phase, our largest priority being Health & Wellbeing. All children are quickly familiarising themselves with their new 'normal' routines to keep us all safe. The children have already demonstrated their excitement for learning and are ready for the challenges awaiting them. There are many smiles around the building and I am delighted to have them all back.

### **Staffing Update**

We have a number of staff changes this session. We would like to say a fond farewell to Mrs Todd-Smith, one of our Nursery Nurses, who will be moving on to another Nursery position in the private sector. Also, Ms Peden, Pupil Support Worker (PSW) who has retired from her post. In her role delivering Maths Recovery, she made positive relationships with children across the school.

We would like to thank them for all their hard work on behalf of the children and staff at Simpson and wish them good luck in their new adventures.

We have welcomed a number of new staff across the school and nursery:

**Class Teachers** - Miss Gillespie, Mr Adams, Mr Paterson, Miss Colquhoun and Miss Milne

**Nursery Nurses** - Miss Long, Miss Lewis, Miss Murray, Miss Young, Miss Hopes, Mrs Blacklaw, Miss Craig

**PSWs** – Mrs McCormick, Mrs Mainka, Miss Kerr, Mr Connelly

We also welcome back Miss Merrick, PSW. 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.

### **Our Senior Leadership Team;**

Head Teacher – Miss Ferris

Depute Head Teacher – Mrs Fawkes

Depute Head Teacher – Mrs Dandie (maternity leave)

Acting Depute Head Teacher – Mr McCallum-McKay

Principal Teacher – Mr Weir

Principal Teacher – Ms Plenderleith

Principal Teacher – Mrs McQuarrie

ELC Area Support Manager – Mrs Anderson

*Our school class structure for session 2020-21 is as follows;*

**P1a** – Mr S McPherson  
**P1b** – Mrs R McCallum  
**P1c** – Mrs B Lurinsky  
**P1d** – Mrs D MacLean  
**P2a** – Mrs V Davies  
**P2b** – Mrs L McGregor/ Miss E Bennie  
**P2c** – Ms H Jenks-Brown  
**P3/2** – Miss E Butler  
**P3a** – Miss R Blyth  
**P3b** – Miss N Gillespie  
**P3c** – Miss A Azam  
**P4a** – Mrs A Knowles  
**P4b** – Miss C Colquhoun  
**P4c** – Mr E Brice/ Mrs C Clark  
**P5a** – Miss I McKinlay –  
currently Miss L Wallace/ Mr B Weir  
**P5b** – Mr C Paterson  
**P5c** – Miss L Scott  
**P6a** – Miss S Clarke  
**P6b** – Miss A Milne  
**P6c** – Mr A Adams  
**P7a** – Mrs K Carral/ Mrs L Paradise  
**P7b** – Miss N Hunter  
**P7c** – Mr A Aitken

***RCCT -***

Mrs S Macandrew, Ms J Kirk, Mrs L Paradise

***PE Specialist -***

Mr K Tennant

***Support for Learning -***

Mrs L MacKenzie/ Ms K Plenderleith

***Raising Attainment -***

Miss A McGregor, Mrs S Smith

## **Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination Programme**

We have distributed letters on behalf of the NHS providing further information. Vaccinations will take place on **Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**. Please notify the school office if you have not received your letter.

## **Meet the Teacher**

All staff were looking forward to meeting you all in person at our annual Meet the Teacher session. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, these sessions are unable to take place. Instead, our staff are busy putting together their presentations, which will be shared with you via our school blog. We will send a group call message to alert you when these are available. Please make every effort to view your teacher's presentation as information can often differ from one stage to the next. It is an excellent opportunity to find out about the year ahead from the outset. These presentations will be available for all children Nursery to P7.

## **Health & Wellbeing**

We are delighted to welcome our children back to school after an unprecedented summer break. All our pupils have settled into their new classes and have enjoyed getting to know their new teachers.

We understand that returning to school after such a long time away can be daunting and may have caused a bit of added anxiety. Like all schools in West Lothian Council we have been planning learning based on the Health and Wellbeing Recovery Map and have a clear focus on pupil health and wellbeing. Each class has been involved in building positive relationships and community since our return to school. Every pupil has completed a self-reporting exercise using the Wellbeing Indicators which will allow staff to address any issues or concerns highlighted. In addition, each pupil has identified at least 1 key adult in school that they will be able to speak with when requested.

We have introduced our Regulation Kits, kindly donated by the Parent Council, into each classroom. These have been an excellent addition to our school and contain objects that help children to self-regulate when they experience large emotions that can be confusing and difficult to manage. These have been a huge success!

## **P1 Phonics Workshop**

Our P1 Phonics workshop this year will be replaced by a digital presentation. This will give P1 parents/carers an insight into how we teach phonics in school and suggest ways on how you can support your child at home. The presentation will be available on **Mon 28<sup>th</sup> September**.

## **School Meals**

Details of the menu options can be found on the WL council website.

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/school-meals-menu>

From 1st April 2020 primary school meals will cost **£2.18 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.

## **Whole School Priorities 2020-21**

Our priorities this session will be to implement our recovery plans with Health and Wellbeing at the centre. We will continue to focus on developing children's ability to articulate their emotions and demonstrate resilience, a vital skill for life. We will complete development work planned for last session which was interrupted by the Covid-19 crisis.

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

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 2019-20 will soon be available on our website and further details of our School Improvement Plan priorities for session 2020-21 will also be shared with you at that time.

## **Park Smart**

We kindly ask that all parents/carers keep the school zone clear. Please consider walking to school or park & stride where possible. If you must drive, please do so sensibly, courteously and with caution, to avoid any potential accident that may cause harm. Keep the zig zag marked areas clear.

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.

**Park with consideration and care, don't give a child a scare! Let's keep our children safe.**

## **Outdoor Clothing**

Outdoor learning will 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, 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. Feel free to pop a spare pair of socks in your child's bag just in case. A change of shoes is welcome if you wish your child to wear wellies for travel and change into shoes/trainers for the classroom or if you prefer for them to wear different footwear for outdoor PE. Your support is appreciated.

## **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.

## 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.

## 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 either 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.

<https://publicprotectionwestlothian.org.uk/>

## 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. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

## 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 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](http://www.simpsonprimary.westlothian.org.uk)

### Blog

Blog posts are written by classes weekly 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](https://twitter.com/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.



## Our Rules



At *Simpson Primary* we are:

**READY** to learn.

**RESPECTFUL** to each other and to property.

**SAFE** in and out of school and online.

## 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 the 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.

Please be aware that during the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, telephone appointments will be used where appropriate in place of face-to-face meetings.



## Our Values



**Respect** The words I use to others will be respectful.

**Fairness** I will treat others the way I would like to be treated.

**Kindness** I will use my hands and my feet appropriately.

**Honesty** I will tell the truth.

**Courage** I will have the courage to make good choices.

# IMPORTANT DATES



The school term in West Lothian started on Wednesday 12 August following guidance from the Scottish Government. As this was earlier than originally planned, the rest of the school year is subject to change. Revised term dates for the 2020/21 session are expected to be agreed by the council's Education Executive at their next meeting on Tuesday 8 September 2020.

West Lothian Council Session Dates can be found on the Council website following this link:

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/schoolholidays>

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher Presentations – these will be available to view on our school blog
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Holiday – School closed to P1-7 pupils and staff Nursery Open
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Staff EFQM day, formally In-service day – School closed to P1-7 pupils & staff Nursery Open
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan Cancer Fundraiser – Organised by our P5 pupils - Whole school invited to participate 'Dress down and wear green' – separate letter to follow
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> September	P1 phonic presentation for parents/carers – this will be available to view on our school blog
Week Beg. Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent/Carer consultations with staff – separate letter to follow with details
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> October – Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Holiday – School closed to P1-7 pupils and staff Nursery Open
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> October	In-service day School closed to P1-7 pupils Nursery Open
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> October	P1-7 pupils return to school
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination Programme in school