

Simpson Primary

News

October 2020



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News from Miss Ferris

I would like to thank our whole school community for everything you are doing to help keep everyone safe and ensure our school remains open. School is not quite business as usual and I appreciate this is an anxious time for many, including school staff. With the latest update from the First Minister introducing a new tiered system, we are expecting additional updated government guidance today. Further information will be communicated separately.

How we can help:

FACTS

Face covering where social distancing is unavoidable

Avoid crowding

Clean your hands regularly

Two metre social distance

Self isolate & book a test if you have symptoms

I would like to acknowledge that there are exemptions/reasons as to why some may not be able to wear a face covering and we must respect that everyone is doing what they can to help. **We are all in this together.**

Staffing Update

We would like to say a fond farewell to our Acting Depute Head Teacher, Mr McCallum-McKay as he has reached the end of his secondment. This secondment was to cover Mrs Dandie's maternity leave. We would like to thank him for all his hard work on behalf of the children and staff at Simpson and wish him all the best in his return to Livingston Village Primary School. We also look forward to welcoming Mrs Dandie back in November.

Mrs Peat has announced her intention to retire in December. We will be sad to see her go. She has supported children across the school and nursery for 11 years and will be a great loss to Simpson. We wish her all the best in her retirement and look forward to hearing about her new adventures.

Miss L Brown has worked with us in the nursery over the last year as both a Nursery Nurse and PSW. She has left us to undertake teacher training at University. We wish her good luck in her studies and future placements.

Mr J Meldrum will also be leaving us in December as she leaves to pursue a new opportunity. She has worked in Simpson Nursery as a Nursery Nurse for 8 years and will be truly missed. We wish her all the best for the future.

Ms Murray Nursery Nurse has announced that she has accepted a new post in a private nursery. We wish her well.

Ms A McGregor recently left us to commence her maternity leave. We are delighted to share the news that she has given birth to a beautiful baby girl. We would like to pass on our congratulations to her family at this exciting time.

Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination Programme

A reminder that vaccinations will take place this **Mon 2nd November 2020**. Please notify the school office if you have any questions.

Meet the Teacher/ P1 Phonics Presentations

Thank you for the positive feedback received in relation to our Nursery-P7 Meet the Teacher Sway presentations and our P1 Phonics presentation. I would like to say a big well done to all the staff for their hard work in putting these together. For anyone who has yet to look, these are still available on the blog for you to view.

Edina Trust

We are delighted to have received a collection of Science resources funded by The Edina Trust. The Edina Trust recently launched a three year grant initiative to fund resources to enhance and support the learning of Science in schools. We are keen to get pupils involved in researching and identifying safe locations within our outdoor areas for our hedgehog house and bird box. The equipment will lend itself well to allow pupils to begin carrying out outdoor investigations in a variety of ways.

Mr Aitken and Ms Azam

P5 Virtual MacMillan Coffee Morning

At Simpson Primary School on the 25th of September 2020, Primary 5 hosted a virtual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Everyone in the school got to bring in a sweet treat while enjoying a quiz. We set up a Just Giving page to help raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Macmillan Cancer Support help people who are living with cancer and their families. Our goal was to raise £250 but we raised a total of £845. Thank you for all your kind donations to help us reach this amazing amount.

Written by Hannah McLaughlin, P5c.

PUPIL NEWS FROM P7

House Captains

Our House and Vice Captains were appointed at the end of September and we are very excited to get started. We have 2 House Captains and 2 Vice Captains for each house so 16 jobs in total. Our House are named after important local people or places - Bruce, James Young, Castle and Leyland. We have been working hard to make new things happen. We are trying our best to find fun ways for pupils to earn house points so they can win rewards. We have some very exciting tasks coming soon too!

Prefects

Our Primary 7 Prefects were chosen once our House Captains had been selected. We have already been given some jobs to do around the school such as supporting with the delivery of milk to younger pupils and helping to set up lunch areas around the school. We are very excited to teach subjects to other classes and are excited to see how this will work online through Teams. We'll see you soon!
From the Simpson Prefects.

Sports Leaders

Our Sports Leaders have also been selected from P7 pupils. We have already started helping other classes with resources and taking PE outdoors. We have our own timetable that we will follow each week. We have been wearing masks and sanitizing to keep ourselves and others safe. We can't wait to do more in the future.

P7 Bring Your Own Device Project

This term Primary 7 have been trialing our new Bring Your Own Device, an exciting new project where pupils are bringing their internet enabled devices to school each day. This offers a wide range of learning possibilities and we have had a great deal of enthusiasm so far. As well as the obvious links to Experiences and Outcomes within Technology, pupils so far have been able to support their learning in Literacy by researching practical examples of topics. They are able to look for additional ideas within Expressive Arts to deepen their understanding of an artist's work. They have also been able to make use of some specific apps which help their understanding of Mathematics concepts. This has been an exciting start to this project and one we are hopeful will extend throughout the upper years of the school in the future.

Reading Accreditation

In addition to our continued participation in the First Minister's Reading Challenge, this year we will be working towards Reading Schools Accreditation from Scottish Book Trust. This is a new initiative to further embed the reading culture within our school and the wider community.

As part of our aim to achieve Gold status this year, we will be working to engage families and build partnerships within the local community.

Please take time to complete our parental survey, using the link sent by email and look out for further information coming soon.

PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Halloween

Due to Covid-19 we are unable to host our usual Halloween discos. This event normally generates £1,000 so not only is it lots of fun for the children it also helps us provide them with new resources.

If you would still like to make a donation, you may do it via PayPal using this link:

<https://paypal.me/SimpsonPSPC>

Christmas Cards

Children have been busy making their Christmas cards and they have all now been sent away to the printers to be collated.

You will soon receive your order form via email. All orders and payments will be made online this year to ensure we are cashless during this current Covid climate.

P1 Tea Towels

P1 Children will soon be working on their self-portraits, which will be added on to tea towels for purchase by parents/carers. Further information will follow.

Parent Council Meeting

We hosted our second PC meeting on Wednesday evening. Minutes from the meeting will be distributed via the school office in due course.

Next Parent Council meeting:

Thursday 21st January 2021

Time: TBC

Contact Details:

Email: Simpson.parentcouncil@gmail.com

Facebook: Simpson Primary and nursery parent council - Wester Inch – Bathgate

IMPORTANT DATES



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

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

Please note that we are unable to welcome parents/carers into schools at this time hence our Christmas events will be planned a little differently. We will notify you via letter as details are confirmed. Dates below are for information purposes to give an indication of when events in school will occur and may be subject to change.

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Mon 2 nd November	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination Programme in school
Fri 6 th November	In school virtual assembly P7 – Remembrance
Fri 13 th November	In school virtual assembly P2 - Children in Need *Whole School Dress Down Day* Donation optional
Mon 16 th November – Fri 20 th November	Book Week Scotland – Children will acknowledge this event in school No requirements from home (There will be an opportunity to dress up on World Book Day later in the session on 05/03/21)
Fri 27 th November	In school virtual assembly – class tbc
Fri 4 th December	In school virtual assembly – class tbc
Wk Beg Mon 7 th December	Nursery Nativity – in school only – separate letter to follow
Wk Beg Mon 14 th December	P1 Winter Show – in school only - separate letter to follow
Date tbc	Christmas School Lunch – separate letter to follow
Wk Beg. 14 th December	Christmas Parties – separate letter to follow
Fri 18 th December	Last day of term
Tues 5 th January	Inset Day for School Staff School closed to P1-P7 pupils Nursery Open to staff & pupils