



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

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Simpson Primary

News

December 2020

Staffing Update

We welcome back Mrs Dandie, our permanent Depute Head Teacher, who has now returned from maternity leave. Mrs Dandie's work pattern will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.

Welcome back!

I would also like to congratulate Mrs MacKenzie who recently commenced her maternity leave. She and her husband have welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world. We wish them every happiness for the future. Congratulations!

We would also like to share the sad news that Miss Scott will be leaving us at the end of this term. Since joining us in August 2018, she has become a valued member of our team and will be greatly missed. Miss Scott is relocating to England and has been successful in achieving a permanent post at Rucstall Primary School. Her last day of working at Simpson Primary School will be 18th December. On behalf of the Simpson Team, our children and families, I would like to thank Miss Scott for her dedication and commitment and wish her the very best in her new post.

The recruitment process is underway to fill the following posts;

- Class Teacher – Fixed term maternity cover
- Class Teacher – Permanent
- Nursery Nurse – Fixed term
- Pupil Support Worker (Nursery) – Fixed term

Children in Need

We are delighted to share that P2b raised a massive £1712 for Children in Need by organising their Dance-a-thon. Thank you to everyone who donated, your kindness and generosity has been overwhelming.



News from Miss Ferris

I can't believe how quickly the Christmas season has come upon us. Despite our covid protocols, our Simpson team will ensure some festive fun in the few weeks of learning ahead.

Our tree is up in the foyer and the children have produced a fantastic display of winter art around our hall to make everyone smile.

Thank you to all our families for continuing to follow the guidance below to keep us all safe.

FACTS

- F**ace covering where social distancing is unavoidable
- A**void crowding
- C**lean your hands regularly
- T**wo metre social distance
- S**elf isolate & book a test if you have symptoms

We are all in this together.

Foodbank Collection

For the remainder of this term we would like to support our local Foodbank. If you would like to donate any food items, your child may deposit donations in the large drop off containers, which will be placed at the entry gates. They will be available prior to the school day for the duration of the staggered entry. Staff will then collate these items for quarantine prior to delivery to the Foodbank. You can find out more about the wonderful service the Foodbank provides at:

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

We thank you in advance for any donations given.

**The drop off points will be open from
3rd Dec – 17th Dec.**

Christmas Parties

Christmas parties will be a little different this year but we would still like the children to experience a party treat. The party fun will take place within classrooms to maintain our class bubbles. Children are permitted to wear their party clothes on the date of their party.

See separate letter for further details.

Christmas Lunch

Everyone should have received a letter inviting you to order your child's Christmas lunch. The lunch will be served on **Wed 9th December**. We ask that you order using ipay impact where possible.

Children are permitted to wear a winter or Christmas jumper on this day if they wish.

Children will eat their meal in their classroom.

Further information can be found on the letter. If you have not yet received the letter, please contact the school office.

Christmas Cards

Due to current measures being taken in school to minimise items going between home to school and other homes, we would request that children do not exchange cards with other pupils this year. This will ensure we can remain low risk in these difficult times.

We do believe it will also be beneficial to the environment.

P1 Winter Show

Our P1 children have been busy learning their lines and preparing for their Winter Show. This will be recorded on the 10th & 11th December and thereafter, we look forward to sharing a link with you to be able to view their performance. Please see separate letter issued by your child's class teacher with details of how you can support with costumes.

Nursery Update

Dates for the nursery Christmas parties are:
Full Day Children - Tuesday 15th December and
Thursday 17th December.

Part Time (am/pm) children - Thursday 17th
December.

Santa will be making a special virtual appearance at the parties.

The children have been learning actions to Christmas songs within their bubbles which we will record and share with parents on a sway via the blog and on our twitter feed.

On the last week of nursery children are very welcome to come dressed in their festive attire.

Personal Belongings in School

Please ensure that your child only brings essential items to school. We have seen a gradual increase in additional items, which are not required, and lost property is starting to grow!

Outdoor PE

PE has returned to outdoors for the duration of Tier 4 restrictions. We will endeavour to be out in most weathers. Please ensure your child wraps up warm and has appropriate footwear. You may send your child into school with a change of shoes and fresh socks if you wish. A waterproof jacket would be greatly appreciated.

School Improvement Plan Recovery Phase

Our Standards and Quality report and School Improvement Plans can be viewed on our school website. See link below:

<https://simpsonprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/14888/School-Documents->

Contingency Plans

We are continuing in Tier 4 in regards to COVID-19 restrictions with the expectation that schools will remain fully open. In the event of any changes announced by the Scottish Government, we may be required to move to a Blended Learning Model. This will involve a balance of in school and at home learning for our children. The main purpose being to reduce numbers in school at any one time. If this scenario came upon us P4-7 would access their learning via Teams and P1-3 would access their learning via Seesaw. P1-3 are currently exploring Seesaw with their classes and further information will be provided to support parents/carers on how to access this digital tool. We urge everyone to continue to follow government guidance to keep our schools open.

Lollypop Sticks

There has been a recent health & safety concern regarding lollypop sticks. We have noticed a number of children bringing lollypops to school as a break time snack. Due to the large volumes of children running around the playground, we are concerned that this could present a potential choking hazard if they were to fall or bump into another child. We politely ask that you save this type of treat for home where possible. If your child does bring one in, they will be permitted to eat this but may be asked to stay seated until finished to keep them safe. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Rights Respecting Schools

We are working towards gaining Rights Respecting Schools status at Simpson Primary this session. The Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds the values of respect and nurture and

encourages a learning environment where children are able to thrive in order to give them the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and be responsible, active citizens. Our RRS Pupil Group will be meeting in the coming weeks to look at what we need to do at Simpson for our school and the local community to gain our Silver award.

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.

Road Safety

Our P6 children delivered an excellent virtual assembly on Road Safety. The whole school were reminded by our P6 Junior Road Safety Officers how to keep ourselves safe around roads and while walking to & from school.

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

Office Hours

Our office is open at the following times:

Mon-Thur: 8.30am – 3.45pm

Fri: 8.30am – 12.45pm

Telephone No: 01506 656371

Email: wlsimpson-ps@westlothian.org.uk

Recently we have noticed a steady increase in the footfall of adults arriving at our school office. During the current COVID-19 restrictions, we would like to remind all parents/carers and visitors that no one should enter the school building without a pre-arranged appointment.

Let's keep our staff and children safe

Let's keep schools open

PARENT COUNCIL

Contact Details:

Email: Simpson.parentcouncil@gmail.com

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

Next Parent Council Meeting:

Thursday 21st January 2021 Time: TBC

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>
Fri 4 th December	In school virtual assembly – P5c
Mon 7 th December - tbc	Robin Hood Virtual Panto – whole school will be able to view from within their classrooms
Wed 9 th December	Christmas School Lunch – separate letter issued
Wed 9 th December	Nursery parent/carer online ‘Biscuits & Blether about Maths’ (Skype) – see letter issued via nursery
Thur 10 th December	P7 Christmas Party
Fri 11 th December	P6 Christmas Party
Thurs 10 th & Fri 11 th December	P1 Winter Show filming – in school only – see separate letter issued by teachers regarding costume requirements for each class. Link to performance will be issued when available.
Mon 14 th December	P1 Christmas Party P2 Christmas Party
Tues 15 th December	P3 Christmas Party P4 Christmas Party
Tues 15 th December	Nursery Party – full day children
Wed 16 th December	P5 Christmas Party
Thur 17 th December	Nursery Party – full day children and part time children (am/pm)
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