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Simpson Primary

News

February 2021

BACK TO SCHOOL



News from Miss Ferris

We are well into the New Year now and remote learning is progressing well. I would like to say a huge thank you to all my school staff who have been working extremely hard to plan and deliver high quality remote learning experiences for our children as well as cover in-school teaching rotas and juggle their own personal circumstances at home.

As a school staff, we greatly appreciate everything parents/carers have been doing to support our children through this challenging time. I would also like to thank everyone who responded to our parent/carer survey on remote learning. We were delighted with the outcome. Look out for the separate email we have sent to share the results with you.

We are all in this together.

Reopening of in-school teaching for Nursery and P1-P3 Children

We have received the awaited news of the phased reopening of in-school teaching. In this newsletter, I hope to share with you everything you need to know to prepare for the week ahead.

Nursery and P1-P3 Children: We would like to welcome back all Nursery and P1-P3 children to in-school teaching from Monday 22nd Feb 2021.

P4-P7 Children: Remote learning will continue for our P4-P7 children using the Teams platform.

Key Worker/Identified Children: If your child is in P4-P7 and has an allocated key worker place, they will be able to continue to attend school. Our P4-P7 staff will operate on a rota basis to support children in school to access learning provided by their class teacher.

It's important that we all stick with it and follow the guidance below to keep us all safe.

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

Lateral Flow Covid Testing

All staff within our school community have been invited to participate in twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing. This form of testing will help identify and isolate asymptomatic people who test positive and therefore, help minimise the spread.

School Day Arrangements

Drop off and Pick up

Due to the increased volume of children in the school building, we will re-establish our staggered start and end to the school day. See below for a reminder of the times:

YEAR GROUP	DROP OFF			PICK UP	
	ENTRY	START OF SCHOOL DAY	GATE	END OF SCHOOL DAY	GATE
P1a & P1b	Arrival from 8.30am onwards	8.45am	Choice of Gate – Front or Back	3.10pm (Fri – 12.25pm)	Back Gate
P1c & P1d		8.50am		3.15pm (Fri – 12.30pm)	Back Gate
P2		8.45am		3.10pm (Fri – 12.25pm)	Front Gate
P3/2 and P3		8.50am		3.15pm (Fri – 12.30pm)	P2 & P2 of P3/2 – Front Gate P3 & P3 of P3/2 - Front Entrance
P4		8.55am		3.20pm (Fri – 12.35pm)	Front Gate
P5		8.50am		3.15pm (Fri – 12.30pm)	Back Gate
P6 and P7		8.55am		3.20pm (Fri – 12.35pm)	Back Gate

Pupil Support Staff will be at the gates and within the playground to assist children in making their way straight into their classroom. Children will be asked to wash their hands on arrival before commencing their soft start activities. At the end of the day, Class Teachers will escort their classes out to the gates to ensure a smooth and safe exit.

Other Information

Breakfast Club	At this time, Breakfast Club is open to children who have a key worker/allocated place only. This service is not yet available to all P1-P3 children. The Breakfast Club opens at 8.00am . Children should enter the school via the front entrance directly into the foyer at the school office. Staff will be there to welcome and register children into the hall.
Snack	Your child may bring a healthy snack to school for break time. Snacks will be eaten within the classroom prior to children going out to play. Staff will ensure all hygiene/cleaning protocols are in place, e.g. hand washing, wiping of tables. Primary 1 pupils will pilot the return to eating snack outdoors during break time. The school tuck shop is not available at this time. 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 is appreciated.
Lunch	You can order a school lunch using ipayimpact. The cost of a school lunch is £2.18. Please note all P1-P3 children are eligible for free school meals. The menu can be viewed here - https://simpsonprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/13931/School-Lunch-Menu

Milk	If you have previously submitted a milk order this will be available on return next week. Contact the school office for further information if required.
Personal Belongings	Please ensure that your child only brings essential items to school. It would be helpful, where possible, if they could bring a pencil case with stationery for individual use. They may also bring a water bottle, which if consumed within the day can be refilled by pupil support staff. Children should not share their personal items with others.
Toilets	Children will be advised of the toilet block that their class must use. This will minimise mixing of year groups while using different toilets.
Outdoor PE	PE will continue to be outdoors for the duration of the current 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. On PE days, children are permitted to wear PE kit to school for the duration of the day. Teachers will let the children know in the first week back, which days will be their PE days.
Seesaw P1-P3	Seesaw will continue to be used at times within the classroom as a learning tool for P1-P3 children. This will also be used to communicate information such as home learning to parents/carers, so please check this platform regularly.
Teams P4-P7	Remote Learning will continue for P4-P7 children using the Teams platform. Please encourage your child to check this platform regularly. This is a safe classroom environment for pupils and staff.
Medicines in school	If your child requires any new (or changes to) medications administered in school, please telephone or email the school office in advance of your child attending school. A member of staff will discuss your child's health care needs with you and arrange for the relevant paperwork to be completed.
How to contact us - 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 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.

Further information:

West Lothian School and Education Updates: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools>

Scottish Government school reopening guidance: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-schools-reopening/>

West Lothian Council session dates: <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/schoolholidays>