

Simpson Primary School

Primary 1 Induction

Frequently Asked Questions



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Please note that there may be some changes due to the current COVID19 situation. We will notify you of any amendments to our normal arrangements as soon as possible.

Equipment



- *What standard equipment do children require to start school?*

It is helpful if children bring in a water bottle, a pencil case including basic stationery, a painting apron and a full indoor and outdoor PE kit from home. We will provide them with home learning bags, which they should bring to school on a daily basis. Children should not bring glue or scissors as these are provided.

- *Do they need a pencil case? What do they need in their pencil case?*

It is helpful if children bring in a pencil case with stationery such as writing pencils and an eraser. They may bring in colouring pencils if they wish, however these will be available in the classroom for use. (During COVID-19 outbreak children should bring their own pencils, pens, sharpener and eraser.)

- *What do I do if my child loses an item of clothing?*

Please make sure every item, no matter how small is **clearly labelled** with name and class.

Labelled items will be returned if found; all other items will be sent to Lost Property beside our School Office. Please be aware that name labels can wash out or fall off! When Covid-19 regulations relax, you will be welcome to come in at the end of the school day to look through Lost Property for any stray items. There are also opportunities throughout the year where items of lost property will be out on display e.g. Parents' Evenings.

- *What do they need for indoor/outdoor PE kit?*

On PE days pupils are permitted to wear PE kit to school for the duration of the day.

Children should wear the following kit:

Indoor: blue/black shorts or jogging bottoms, plain coloured t-shirt: white or sky blue and indoor gym shoes (brought in a bag)

Outdoor: blue/black shorts or jogging bottoms, t-shirts, trainers, light rain-jacket.

No football tops are permitted. We endeavour to be outside for P.E. in most weathers so please ensure your child dresses appropriately for the Scottish weather! **All items must be labelled!**

Communication :

We aim to communicate effectively with our families using different methods. All P1 children will have a Seesaw account where in class learning highlights will be shared with home. We encourage parents to engage with this platform and provide positive feedback to your child. Our Parent Council shares information on the Simpson Primary & Nursery Facebook page.



- *When forms are handed out do they go back in homework bags or do we return them to the school office?*

Children are encouraged to hand in any letters in their home learning bags to their teacher each morning.

- *When is best to catch the teacher if you need to speak to them?*

Catch us at the end of the day ensuring social distancing rules are followed or send in a note in your child's daily diary to arrange a meeting or phone call. We will always get back to you as quickly as we can. If your query is urgent, you can get in touch with the office and they will let us know.

- *Is it possible to email the class teacher?*

We do not give out our email addresses or personal phone numbers to parents. Please do not hesitate to get in touch in person, by phoning the school, or by writing a note. Messages can also be sent via Seesaw but please be aware that these are not checked on a daily basis. Any urgent information should always be directed to the school office where it will be passed onto the relevant member of staff.

- *Where can I find out more information about what is happening in the school?*

You can find information about our latest learning and upcoming events in the following places:

Website - <https://simpsonprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>

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

Twitter - @SimpsonPrimary



Many class teachers also have their own Twitter page to share celebrations of learning. The teacher will share more information about this with you in August if they use Twitter. We love to hear about what your child is learning and any home achievements. These can be shared with their class in school or on Twitter, however please do not post your child's name online to comply with WLC Child Protection procedures.

- *When is the first parents' evening?*

The first formal parent consultations take place in October, before the holiday. We will send home information in advance regarding our online appointment booking system.

Routines and Transition - This may be different for August 2021. More details will be shared by email and or media channels

- *Is there a staggered start time for P1s?*

On day one, Primary 1 will start at 9.15/9.30am. Currently we have a staggered start to the day. Children can arrive and go straight to their classroom from 8.30am. Further information will be confirmed to parents closer to the start of August

- *Is there a staggered release for P1s?*

Yes, due to our current Covid-19 situation we have a staggered end to the day from 3.10pm. We will share specific pickup times and places for classes before your child starts school.

- *Where should I collect my child at the end of the day?*

P1 children should be collected from the playground. Parents/carers can come into the playground via the side gate at the playing field. Only one adult should enter school grounds per family. We ask all parents to wait outside the gate until the class are ready to be collected. Please keep a safe distance when waiting outside or on school grounds

- *Where children should be collected if parents/carers are late for pick-up?*

If children are not collected at the end of the day, their class teacher will escort them to the School Office where they will await pick up. If you know that you are running late, please phone the Office in advance to let us know.

- *Where should children go if they are late for the bell in the morning?*

If children arrive late, they should enter the school at the main entrance and report to the School Office.

- *Where should children go on a wet morning?*

Children should go to their normal gate and they will be directed into their classroom. Please make sure that your children come dressed appropriately, as there may be an opportunity for learning outside if weather improves later in the day.



- *If children come to school in wellies, do they keep them on or do they change into indoor shoes? Can they use their indoor PE shoes?*



Please ensure that your child has a change of shoes if they come in wearing wellies. They may choose to bring in other school shoes or use their indoor PE shoes.

- *Do children have to ask to go to the toilet or do they just go?*

Children are encouraged to use the toilets at break and lunch times but are free to use toilets throughout the day too. In the interest of fire safety, all children must ensure that they alert an adult if they need to leave the room for any reason.

- *What is the role of buddy and how long do the children have them for?*

Buddies are allocated to P1 children for the full year but their input lessens after the initial settling in period. Buddies will help the Primary 1 children to settle into class initially, modelling routines and showing them around. They are encouraged to develop the Primary 1 children's confidence and independence. Our buddy team will be helping with transition activities in June.

Playtime and Lunchtime

- *Do the whole school play in the same playground?*

Due to the size of the school, we have staggered playtimes and separate areas for different year groups to play in.



- *Who helps the children at playtime and lunchtime?*

Pupil support staff supervise the children at playtime and lunchtime in the playgrounds. In the dining hall at lunchtime, school staff support all children with the help of Primary 7 Prefects. Primary 1 teachers stay in the Dining Hall until children are settled with their lunch.

- *What should children do if they get hurt in the playground?*

Children should alert a Pupil Support Worker or ask a friend to do so if they are unable. The Pupil Support Workers will often be wearing red jackets so they are easy to identify in the playground.

- *If it rains at break and lunch where do they go?*

If there is inclement weather, children will stay in their classroom over break and lunch. Each classroom has 'Rainy Day' activities on offer. Pupil Support Workers and Primary 7s will supervise them until their teacher returns.

- *Where is the snack trolley for children to purchase a snack?*

Unfortunately, we are currently unable to provide a snack trolley during Covid-19 restrictions. Normally, the snack trolley will be brought around classes each morning by P7 children to purchase items for snack. The trolley will also be out in the playground during playtime or inside the corridor on wet days.

- *What is available on the snack trolley and how much is each item?*

There are a wide variety of snacks available including crisps, fruit flakes and rice cakes. Items are priced between 5p and 35p. Bottles of water are 20p. There are snacks available to purchase for children with allergies. Please let us know of any allergies and we can discuss this with you. These are not available at the moment but we may be able to start again in the future

- *What kind of snack should my child bring for playtime?*

If your child is bringing their own snack for playtime it should be something healthy such as a piece of fruit, cereal bar, crackers. Try to provide them with one small item to keep them going until lunchtime. We are a health promoting school and would encourage children not to bring sugary sweets or fizzy drinks for snack or lunch. Lollipops and snacks containing nuts are not permitted.



- *When is break time and how long does it last?*

For P1, playtime lasts from 10.15 - 10.30am Monday to Thursday, and 10.00 – 10.20am on Fridays.

- *When is lunchtime and how long does it last?*

Lunchtime lasts from 12pm – 12:45pm for P1.

- *Do children get the opportunity to wash their hands before going for lunch?*

All P1 children are taken to wash their hands before lunchtime.

- *How long are children given to eat lunch?*

Children are given as long as needed to finish their lunch.

- *Can they take part of their lunch outside, i.e. crisps or a banana?*

No – children are encouraged to eat in the dining hall and then go outside to play.

- *Can children go home for lunch?*

Yes – they will need to be picked up and dropped off by an adult at the school office. Please contact the school office to arrange this if required.

- *What is the process if children bring a packed lunch? Where do children collect school packed lunches?*

Children can leave their packed lunches in a designated box in the morning. They carry them to the hall for lunchtime and children return them to the box outside their classroom.

- *How do they know where to line up for their lunch order?*

Coloured trays on the counter indicate where children should line up. School staff and P7 pupils are on hand to assist.

- *How do children know which colour of tray to collect?*

We encourage parents to complete lunch orders with their children at home **using iPayimpact**. Children check their lunch orders in the morning and class teachers direct children to the correct line in the hall at lunchtime. School and Kitchen staff are aware of children with allergies or special dietary requirements when issuing food orders.

- *What happens if a child drops their tray before they have eaten?*

Where possible, children are given a replacement. Bread and fruit are always available.

- *Where do they get water?*

Children are given a choice of milk or water alongside their lunch order.

- *Is water available during class time?*

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to be used at appropriate times during the school day. This should be taken home at the end of each day to be washed and refilled. Please note as we are a health promoting school bottles for class should be filled with water only and no diluting juice.

Curriculum

- *Do homework bags come home at the weekend?*

Yes. More detailed information about homework will be issued by the class teachers in August.

- *Will a brief description or example of homework be provided?*

A homework grid will be provided each term outlining the activities to support and reinforce classroom activities.

- *Will a phonics hand out with sounds/colours be provided for parents at home?*

Handouts will go out to parents following a workshop in Term 1. We also send home a sounds book in homework bags to help children to practise the sounds that they have learned.

- *Do children read the wordless books at school before bringing them home?*

Yes. We discuss the stories with the children before they are sent home.

- *When is physical education (P.E.)?*

This will differ from class to class and may change each term. Parents will be notified at the beginning of term.

- *How many PE sessions do children have?*

Children will have two PE sessions per week. These may take place outdoors, even in light rain.

- *How long is a PE session?*

Each class will have two regular 50-minute sessions, with other opportunities throughout the week.

- *What is involved in gym sessions?*

The PE focus (Gymnastics, Athletics, Scottish Dancing, etc.) will be highlighted in your class newsletter each term.

- *Do children bring their PE kit home every week for washing?*

Currently children come to school wearing their gym kits so there is no need for them to change in school.



Medical/ Medication/Allergies

What do I do if my child requires medicine or has any allergies?



- Please notify the school office and class teacher as soon as possible of any medical needs. A meeting/phone call will be arranged to discuss your child's needs and to complete the relevant paperwork.
- We are unable to give your child any medication without the appropriate paperwork allowing us permission. Prescribed medication must be labelled from the pharmacy with your child's name on it.
- We are a nut free school. Children must NOT bring any snacks or lunch items containing nuts or Nutella spread.

Expectations

Our positive relationships and behaviour policy is based around children's rights, with a focus on:

- the right to **learn**,
- the right to **feel safe**
- the right to be treated with **fairness and respect**.



Our school rules are:

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be safe



Our school values are also central to the policy.

These are:

- Kindness
- Fairness
- Courage
- Honesty
- Respect.



In consultation with pupils, staff and parents we have created a refreshed positive relationships and behaviour policy. It focuses on promoting positive behaviour throughout our school through high expectations of all learners and positive recognition of children demonstrating our values. We continually look for opportunities to recognise positive behaviours and celebrate success.

Celebrating Success

What are the houses and how are they used within school?

Children will be allocated a house shortly after enrolment at Simpson Primary. We have 4 houses/teams. They are Bruce (Blue), Leyland (Green), James Young (Red) and Castle (Yellow). Siblings will be allocated to the same house group. Houses are used for a variety of events throughout the year e.g. Sports Day.

How and what are house points rewarded for?

House points are awarded by staff for a variety of reasons e.g. great effort with work tasks, displaying our values, good manners etc. These are counted weekly by P7 house captains with a winning house announced each week to

receive an extra 5 minutes playtime break. At the end of each term a house treat will be organised for the house with most points. At the end of the school session - the overall winning house with most points will be awarded the House Cup.