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Simpson Primary

News

August - September 2020

News from Miss Ferris



Welcome back to our new school session 2021-2022 and a special warm welcome to our new pupils and their families. I am delighted with the way staff and pupils have settled in for our return to school after the summer break.

Many of our Covid-19 mitigations in place prior to the summer as part of our risk assessment are still in place to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. These will be regularly reviewed in line with government and local authority guidance.

The children have already demonstrated their excitement for learning and are ready for the challenges awaiting them in the session ahead.

Staffing Update

We have a number of staff changes this session. We would like to say a fond farewell to Miss Blyth, Mr Paterson and Mrs Thomas. Miss Blyth, one of our Class Teachers, will be moving on to another teacher position in Bellsquarry Primary School. Mr Paterson has successfully completed his probationer teacher year and will now seek a permanent position. Mrs Thomas will be returning overseas to teach. All staff made positive relationships with children across the school and will be missed. Mr Weir will also be leaving us for a promotion. Please see the separate letter emailed to you with further information about his exciting news.

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 also welcomed a number of new staff across the school:

Class Teachers – Miss Hiddleston, Miss Parlett and Mrs Sage

We extend a very warm welcome to our new staff and are sure that they will have a very successful and happy time with us. We welcome back Mrs Rendle, our Chartered Teacher, who is returning from a 2yr secondment with the Regional Improvement Collaborative.

Our Senior Leadership Team:

Head Teacher – Miss Ferris
Depute Head Teacher – Mrs Fawkes
Depute Head Teacher – Mrs Dandie
Principal Teacher – Mr Weir
Principal Teacher – Ms Plenderleith
Principal Teacher – Mrs McQuarrie (maternity leave)
Acting Principal Teacher – Mr Aitken
Chartered Teacher – Mrs Rendle
ELC Area Support Manager – Mrs Anderson

Our school class structure for session 2021-22 is as follows:

P1a – Mrs B Lurinsky
P1b – Miss N Gillespie
P1c – Mrs S Smith
P1d – Mrs D MacLean
P2/1 – Miss S Clarke
P2a – Mrs V Davies
P2b – Miss N Parlett / Mr Weir (Wed)
P3a – Miss M Hiddleston/ Mrs Plenderleith (Tues)
P3b – Miss A Azam
P3c – Ms A Laidlaw
P4/3 – Miss C Colquhoun
P4a – Miss E Bennie/ Mr E Brice
P4b – Miss E Butler
P4c – Miss A Milne
P5a – Mrs S Sage/ Mr Aitken (Thur)
P5b – Miss I McKinlay – currently Miss A Lorimer
P5c – Miss N Byrne
P6a – Mr A Adams
P6b – Miss N Hunter
P6c – Miss M Wilson
P7a – Ms H Jenks-Brown
P7b – Mrs K Carral/ Mr Aitken (Fri)
P7c – Mr S McPherson

Learning across the curriculum (RCCT) -

Mrs S Macandrew, Ms J Kirk & Ms L Wallace

PE Specialist –

Mr K Tennant

Support for Learning –

Mrs M Rendle & Ms K Plenderleith

Staff currently on Maternity Leave –

Miss A McGregor, Mrs L MacKenzie,
Mrs LJ McQuarrie, Mrs L McGregor,
Mrs C Clark, Mrs L Paradies and
Mrs R MacCallum

COVID-19

The Council continues to work with Health Protection at NHS Lothian to implement the Scottish Government guidance. Part of the new guidance is that classes no longer isolate in primaries as bubbles. This is because educational settings are deemed low risk and there is a suite of additional mitigations in schools to manage the spread of the virus. These mitigations are part of our individual school Risk Assessment and include, for example, the wearing of face coverings by adults where required, increased ventilation and physical distancing between adults as well as an enhanced cleaning regime. Our school regularly reviews the control measures and reinforce these continually with staff and pupils.

In the event that a positive case is reported to us, we will send out a 'warn and inform' letter to the class linked to the positive case to make parents aware. Test & Protect will contact any close contacts.

We have had a number of cases within the school community and therefore ask that parents/carers continue to **minimise waiting at school gates** and **wear a face covering at drop off/pick up times (unless exempt)**, to keep our staff and children safe.

This forms part of the Scottish Government guidance which can be viewed at:

[https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/changes-to-previous-guidance/#Self-isolation%20policy%20\(including%20contact%20tracing%20and%20testing\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/changes-to-previous-guidance/#Self-isolation%20policy%20(including%20contact%20tracing%20and%20testing))

We appreciate the changes in how cases of COVID-19 in schools are being managed since the start of term has caused some confusion. We hope this letter from NHS Lothian helps explain these changes.

See link:

<https://simpsonprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/70611/Letter-from-NHS-Lothian-regarding-how-COVID-19-cases-are-being-managed-in-schools-August-2021>

Meet the Teacher

Staff look forward to meeting you all in person at our annual Meet the Teacher session. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions in schools, these sessions are unable to be face to face at this time. Our staff will create their presentations in a digital format and these will be shared with you via our school website/blog. We will send a group call message to alert you when they are available, currently scheduled for Thursday 16th September. 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.

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 made available on **Mon 27th 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 17th August 2021 primary school meals will cost **£1.96 per day** for the primary school menu.

Please note: all Primary 1 to Primary 4 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.

Please inform school via the office if your child has any special dietary requirements.

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 or nursery.** Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

We also ask that parents/carers of nursery children refrain from sending in any fish products due to a **severe fish allergy within the nursery setting.**

Thank you.

Whole School Priorities 2021-22

Our priorities this session will be to maintain a consistent, nurturing culture to support recovery and positive health and wellbeing for learners.

As we continue to refine and develop our curriculum learning pathways, our main focus will be Numeracy, Literacy and Interdisciplinary Learning. This will look at how DYW, STEM and Digital Technologies are embedded across the curriculum.

Other improvements will include further enhancing our outdoor environment creating an active playground promoting positive peer relationships. Our Standards and Quality Report for parents/carers session 2020-21 will soon be available on our website and further details of our School Improvement Plan priorities for session 2021-22 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.

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.

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. A designated absence telephone line is available to report all absence to the school office. Please clearly state reason for absence to enable the correct absence code to be assigned to your child's register. Seesaw/Teams platforms should NOT be used to report absence as they are not continuously monitored.

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. Indoor PE kit is sky blue t-shirt with navy blue shorts and suitable footwear. Outdoor PE kit is joggers/sports leggings with a t-shirt and sweatshirt/fleece. We highly encourage school colours of navy and sky blue.

Compliance with these requirements will help us to ensure high standards and take pride in our identity as a school community.

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.

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.

Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination Programme

We have distributed letters on behalf of the NHS providing further information. Vaccinations will take place on **Mon 29th November 2021**. Please notify the school office if you have not received your letter.

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/>

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

Blog

Blog posts 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.

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.

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

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



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.

IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
Thurs 16 th September	Meet the Teacher Presentations – these will be available to view on our school blog/website
Mon 20 th September	Holiday – School closed to P1-7 pupils and staff Nursery Open
Tues 21 st September	Staff EFQM day, formally In-service day – School closed to P1-7 pupils & staff Nursery Open
Wed 22 nd September	P1-7 school pupils & staff return
Fri 24 th September	Macmillan Cancer Fundraiser – Organised by our P5 pupils - Whole school invited to participate 'Dress down and wear green' – separate letter to follow
Mon 27 th September	P1 phonic presentation for parents/carers – this will be available to view on our school blog/website
Thur 30 th September	Save the date - Parent Council Meeting - tbc
Mon 29 th November	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination Programme in school (consent packs have been distributed)
Week Beg. Mon 4 th October	Parent/Carer consultations with staff – separate letter to follow with details
Mon 11 th October – Sun 17 th October	October break – School closed to P1-7 pupil and staff

	Nursery Open
Mon 18 th October	In-service Day – School closed to P1-7 pupils School staff return Nursery Open
Tues 19 th October	P1-7 school pupils return