

## Welcome to Foundation Stage 2/ Reception

### **Alice in Wonderland Class**

#### **Our Team:**

##### Class Teacher:

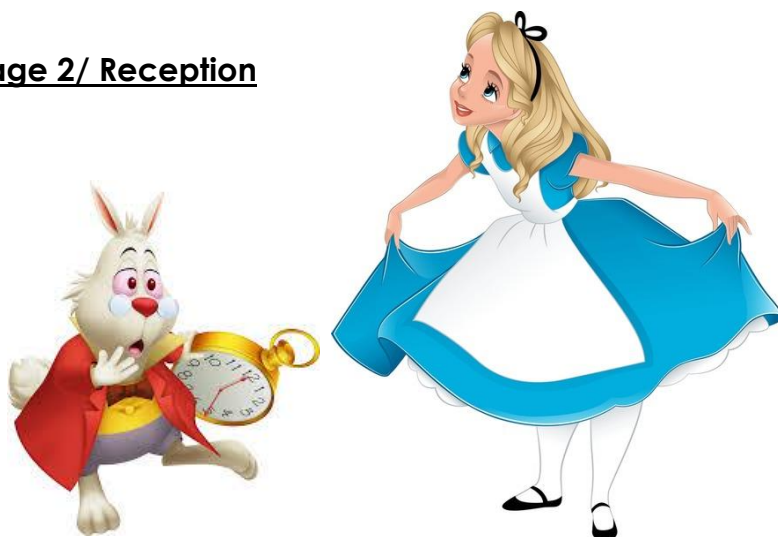
Mrs Fischer

Mrs McNally (PPA Cover)

##### Teaching Assistants:

Miss Pickford

Mrs Stewart



Welcome to the final block for Reception! We are very excited to adventure into a world of stories for our final 10 weeks together. We will be taking part in lots of story-themed activities and exploring traditional tales. I am Mrs Fischer and I am the Reception Class Teacher. We have a wonderful network of support staff in EYFS in the form of Miss Pickford and Mrs Stewart.

In Foundation Stage 2 we love to learn through exploring our environment. We have lots of exciting learning spaces throughout our class, inside and outside. In the morning we will have early bird activities for your child to access before 9.00am when we then register the children and the day begins. For the majority of the day we can choose when and where we play, inside and outside. Challenges are set in areas of the classroom for the children to complete linked to the different areas of learning.

### **Curriculum**

The new EYFS Framework and Development Matters are the basis of our curriculum which gives statements for the ages of the children. We share this with parents and base the next steps for the children on this.

The planning focus for each term and each week is taken from the Long-Term Plan, the agreed focus, the previous week's findings, the interests of the children and the next steps.

#### Early Years education focuses on seven areas of learning

The **prime areas** of learning are...

CL	Communication and Language
PD	Physical Development
PSED	Personal Social and Emotional Development

The **specific areas** of learning are...

L	Literacy
M	Mathematics

EAD Expressive Arts and Design  
UW Understanding the World

There are 4 key principles that underpin our practice at St Simon's.

### **A Unique Child**

We recognise that all children are different. We identify and celebrate their strengths and support their areas for development.

### **Positive Relationships**

Our pupils interact well with each other and with the adults in the school. We encourage parents to be involved with their child's education.

### **Enabling Environments**

Our indoor and outdoor areas encourage exploration, investigation, and independent learning. Our displays and resources are well maintained and reflect current learning.

### **Learning and Development**

Pupils achieve well and make good progress from their starting points. Learning is playful, practical, and purposeful and builds upon prior attainment. Our children enjoy coming to school.

Full details of 'Development Matters' can be found:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/development-matters--2>

Every day we also get together in small and larger groups for teaching sessions focusing on RE, Maths, Literacy, Phonics, PHSE, Circle Time etc.

There are so many different and wonderful things to do in our class, we firmly believe in having lots of fun, having a go, following our interests and learning through play.

### **Our theme this block is 'What's the Story?'**

Over the next 10 weeks we're going on an adventure to explore the world of books! We will learn about the difference between traditional tales and more modern stories as well as exploring the work of lots of different authors. We will think about our favourite characters and share stories of our own. We will continue to use the Tales Toolkit scheme to write our own stories and will develop our confidence to share these with our friends. The stories we will focus on will include Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood, Zog, We're Going on a Bear Hunt and 'Don't Read This Book!'.

You can help at home in a number of ways including reading a variety of Traditional Tales to support your child to be as familiar with these stories as possible. Discuss the beginning, middle and end of stories and how the writer keeps the reader interested.

Our class name this year is **Alice in Wonderland Class.**



I KNEW  
WHO I WAS  
THIS MORNING  
BUT I'VE  
CHANGED A  
FEW TIMES SINCE  
THEN.

Heather Herbert

This year, we will **STRIVE** to be as  
**Inquisitive** as Alice and learn lots of  
new things!

## Communication

### Class Dojo



We use an app called Class Dojo, which you have all been invited to join, we are able to send messages to each other and see photos of your children in class and updating you with any key dates or information.



Follow us on Twitter @StSimonsSch and our PTA have a Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Simons-Catholic-Primary-School-PTA-649590165143369/>

## Physical Development



Each day the children have opportunity to access outdoor activities that are planned to aid their physical development.

This Block Reception will take part in forest School. This will take place each week on a **Wednesday**. For this, the children will need to come to school in weather-proof clothing. Children should be wearing:

- Long sleeves
- Legs need to be covered with long trousers
- Sun cream needs to be applied in the morning and sun hats need to be worn for hot days
- Wellies/ boots and waterproof coats will need to be worn on rainy and cold days.

In Reception we will

**STRIVE**

to do our best by:

Spiritual	Trusted	Resilient	Inquisitive	Valued	Exceptional
*I can talk about feelings. *I can join in with prayers. *I can listen to Bible stories.	*I can work in a team. *I can play well with others and share. *I can make good choices.	*I can focus on tasks even if I don't like them. *I can try new things and new experiences. *I can work on my own.	*I like finding out how things work and asking questions. *I am interested in words, books and numbers. *I try new things and new experiences.	*I have respect for different people and cultures. *I take care of my classroom and my environment. *I can receive praise and know when I have done well.	*I can articulate my thoughts and feelings. *I can sit and listen attentively. *I know what I am good at.

This year we will be focusing on being spiritual, trusted and resilient. We will be **Alice in Wonderland Class**. We are named after Alice from the famous children's book, who takes on a wild adventure and learns all about herself as she journeys down the rabbit hole to Wonderland. This year all of our classes are named after '**Inquisitive**' role models. We will learn about Alice and other inquisitive role models throughout the year.

## Homework

### Reading

Please read with your child each night building up to 10mins.

Children will have 2 books:

- **Decodable reader** – These books are to practise specific phonic sounds and may stay with your child for several weeks.
- **Shared reader** – These books are for you to share with your child to encourage a love of reading and include some of the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme books and some fiction, non-fiction and poetry. These reading books will be collected in and changed **twice a week**.

Children's reading books will be changed on a **Monday** and **Thursday**. Please make sure you have signed the reading record or books will not be changed.



The children will move up colour bands. They will move up to the next colour band when they can fluently and audibly read the words as well as understand the content of what they have read

Children will also have a log in to Reading Eggs. You are able to access this from home, children are encouraged to use this at home.

### Handwriting

Children will be given handwriting to practice each **Thursday**, to be completed by the following **Thursday**.



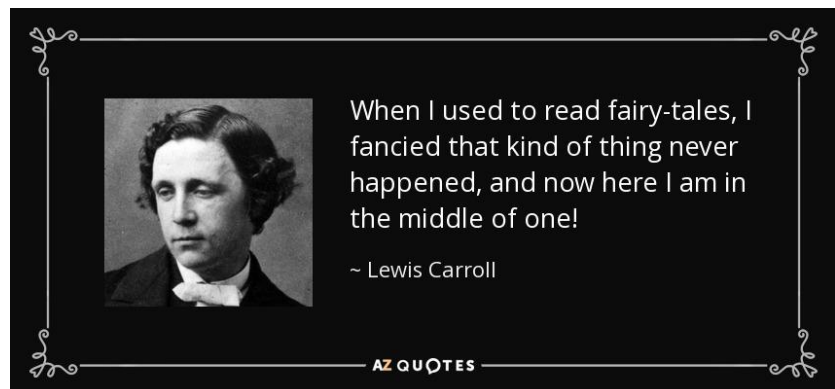
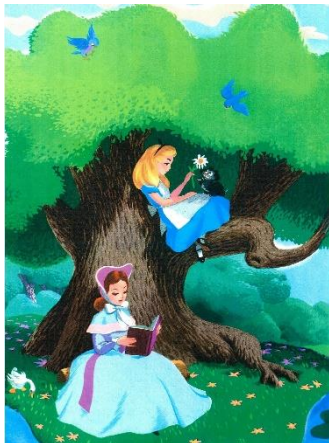
### Maths

Children will have a small Maths homework book with a weekly number task set in it to complete at home. This will also be set each **Thursday**, to be completed by the following **Thursday**.

### Children will be provided with a log in for:

Reading Eggs – An interactive platform where children can complete reading-based activities and games.

Purple Mash – An interactive platform with access to activities and games covering all other areas of the curriculum.



### **Diary Dates**

05/05/2025 – May Bank Holiday – school closed

09/05/2025 – 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day celebration – Children to come to school dressed in 1940's costume

15/05/2025 – Nursery & Reception Liturgy – 3pm

11/06/2025 & 13/06/2025 – Father's Day sale

19/06/2025 – Reception & KS1 Sports Day – 2pm

18/07/2025 – Special Friends assembly – 2:45pm



The weekly newsletter and Class Dojo will also keep you up to date with events.



We appreciate your continued support to aid your child's progress more than ever and look forward to working with you to ensure the children get the most out of the coming academic year. If you have any questions or need clarification on any of these points, please message on Class Dojo.



**“The best gift you can give, is a lifetime of adventures!” – Lewis Carroll**

Below is what we will be learning and ways in which you can support your child at home:

### **Religious Education:**

#### **New Life**

As we return from the Easter break, we are celebrating that Jesus is Alive. We will be learning about the time Jesus spent with his disciples after the resurrection. The children will hear stories from the Bible about what Jesus did before ascending into Heaven and how we are tasked with continuing His mission on Earth.

#### **What you can do to help:**

- Talk to the children about your family/ what activities you like to do together
- Thank God for our families, in your prayers
- Talk about signs of new life during the season of spring.



### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:**

Children will be encouraged to describe self in positive terms and talk about abilities. They will explain their own knowledge and understanding and asks appropriate questions of others. Children will begin to accept the needs of others and can take turns and share resources, sometimes with support from others.

#### **What you can do to help:**



- Encourage your child to put their own shoes and coat on
- Ask your child to help with simple jobs at home
- Encourage your child to get dressed and undressed independently.

### **Communication and Language**

Children will be given lots of opportunities to maintain attention, concentrate and sits quietly during appropriate activities. They will begin to follow a story without pictures or props. They will begin to question why things happen and give explanations. Asks e.g. who, what, when, how.

#### **What you can do to help:**

- Read stories to your child and ask them questions.
- Talk to them about what they have done at school.
- Use the class dojo pictures as a starting point.
- Encourage them to question why things happen.



### **Physical Development**

Children will begin to form recognisable letters holding a pencil between thumb and two fingers, no longer using whole-hand grasp. Shows some understanding that good practices with regard to exercise, eating, sleeping and hygiene can contribute to good health. Children will continue to develop gross motor skills in PE sessions these will include dance.

#### **What you can do to help:**

- Encourage your child to draw pictures.



- Complete homework activities that are provided weekly.
- **Read with your child DAILY when possible – this is extremely important.**

### **Phonics**

We will continue phonics using the letters and sounds scheme of work where we will be covering the Phase 2-4 sounds. The children will give meaning to marks they make as they draw, write and paint. They will segment the sounds in simple words and blend them together and know which letters represent some of them. They will ascribe meanings to marks that they see in different places.

#### **What you can do to help:**

- Read with your child
- Complete handwriting homework.
- Encourage your child to spot letters in the environment and say the sound they make.



### **Maths**

Children will select the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5, then 1 to 10 objects or beyond. Find one more or one less from a group of up to five objects, then ten objects. Shows interest in shape by sustained construction activity or by talking about shapes or arrangements.

#### **What you can do to help:**

- Recognise the numerals 1-10 and beyond.
- Talk about shapes that you see in the environment.
- Encourage your child to count objects/toys saying the number names in the correct order.

