



Welcome to Foundation Stage 2/ Reception



Joy Class



Our Team:



Class Teacher:



Mrs Fischer



Mrs McInally (PPA Cover)



A warm welcome to the next block of learning in Reception. It has been lovely getting to know the children over the past 10 weeks and seeing them settle into life at St Simon's in Reception. During Block 1 we have enjoyed getting to know each other and learning about ourselves throughout our 'All About Me' topic. I am looking forward to the next step on our learning journey and the fun that awaits!



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. As the term progresses, challenges will be set in areas of the classroom for the children to complete.



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 for block 1 was-

Who am I?

Over the last ten weeks we learnt all about ourselves including what we looked like, where we lived, who is in our family and how we could care for one another.

We also explored the concept of 'responsibility' through asking the question 'How could I take care of God's World?'

Our theme this block is 'Where are we in the World?'

Over the next 10 weeks, Joy Class will be taking the next step on their learning adventure, they'll be going on an adventure learning all about travel! As well as exploring modes of transport. We look forward to the adventures that await us. I'm sure we'll have lots of fun!

We will also be exploring the concept of '**Love**' through asking the question '**How can I show love to the world around me?**'

Joy Class

This year our class will be known as **Joy Class**, a name that celebrates one of the great gifts of our Catholic faith.





Joy is more than simple happiness – it comes from knowing God's love and trusting in His goodness. Even in challenging times, joy helps us to find hope, gratitude, and light.

At school, joy shines through in our friendships, in our learning, and in the way, we encourage and celebrate one another.

By living with joy, our students discover that they are deeply valued, and they learn to share that sense of value with others by lifting spirits, spreading kindness, and creating a positive and welcoming community.

Joy reminds us that God is with us always, and that His presence fills our hearts with lasting peace and purpose. We hope to spread Joy this Block with our Nativity performance of the Christmas story!



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



We will take part in P.E lessons every **Monday**. Please send your child to school wearing their P.E kit on a **Monday** ready for our lesson.

Your child's PE kit should consist of plain navy joggers/leggings, a light blue polo top and their school jumper or cardigan with trainers.

In Reception we will

STRIVE

to do our best by:

Spiritual	Trusted	Resilient	Inquisitive	Valued	Exceptional
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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

14/11/25 – Fun Friday

15/11/25-Open Morning 10-12pm

20/11/25-Foundation stage Liturgy 3pm

27/11/25 -Christmas Fair

28/12/25- Blessing of the Advent wreath (14.45)

5/12/25- Save the Children Christmas jumper day

9/12/25 - Nativity play (time TBC)

11/12/25 - Nativity plays (time TBC)

17/12/25 - Christmas dinner and class parties

17/12/25 -Pantomime (9.30)

19/12/25 - Carols and coffee (2pm)

19/12/25 - School closes for all children (15.30)



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.

Kind Regards

Mrs Fischer







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

Religious Education: Prophecy and Promise

Children will hear the story of Christmas. They will hear that the angel Gabriel came to visit Mary with good news. They will know that Mary is Jesus' mother and how we celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas.



What you can do to help:

- **Talk about the stories:** Ask your child what they learned at school about Mary, Joseph, and the birth of Jesus.
- **Use familiar language:** Relate the stories to things they know, like the donkey carrying Mary on her journey to Bethlehem.
- **Encourage reflection:** Prompt them to think about what the stories mean for them, such as how to be loving and helpful to others.
- **Talk about Advent traditions:** Discuss the Advent wreath and the Nativity crib, and how families prepare their hearts for Christmas.

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.

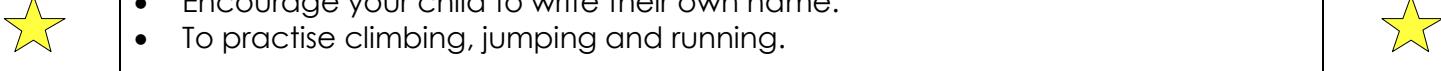
Physical Development

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.

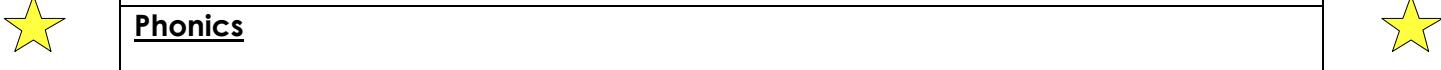


What you can do to help:





- Encourage your child to draw pictures.
- Encourage your child to write their own name.
- To practise climbing, jumping and running.



Phonics

We will continue phonics using the letters and sounds scheme of work where we will be covering the phase 2 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.



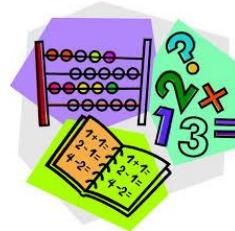
What you can do to help:

- 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.

