



St Simon's Nursery Love Class 2025-2026



We would like to welcome the children and families who joined nursery in January.

A warm welcome to the next block of learning in nursery. We cannot believe we have reached the half way point of the school year already!

In Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery), we love to learn through exploring our environment. We have lots of exciting learning spaces throughout our class, inside and outside. When your child enters Nursery there are welcoming/ settling activities for your children, we then register and find out what the day has in store for us!

For most of our session, the children will have 'COOL Time' or 'Choosing Our Own Learning' Time. This is where the children can choose when and where they learn, exploring the different indoor and outdoor areas. This is structured to ensure the children make progress in all areas of development, with play as the catalyst to drive the learning. We also learn within small and larger groups for focused sessions on Maths, Literacy, Phonics, RE and PSED.

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.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum; full details of Development Matters can be found:

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

Class Dojo

This is a two-way communication tool, where we can send messages and photos to update you with any key dates or information. Please feel free to contact me if I can help with anything or if you have any questions.



Our Team

Class Teacher
Mrs Clarke

HLTA
Mrs McNally

Teaching Assistants
Mrs Precieux



If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact any member of the team who will be more than happy to help.

Key dates

- Friday 13th February – School closes for half term
- Tuesday 24th February – school reopens
- Friday 27th February – St David's house to wear yellow
- Friday 6th March – World Book Day celebration
- Tuesday 10th March – Class photographs
- Wednesday 11th March – 8:30am – 11am School Nurse Drop-in
- Tuesday 17th March – St Patrick's House to wear green
- Thursday 26th March – EYFS celebration of the word
- Thursday 26th March – Parents evening – in person
- Thursday 2nd April – School closes for the Easter Holidays

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

General Information

- Please make sure to label your child's clothing.
- Please keep some spare underwear and clothing in your child's bag. We are very busy in Nursery and can sometimes get a little messy or have accidents.
- We normally do PE in the school hall on Wednesdays, please ensure children come into school in appropriate clothing.

Our theme for block 2 was:

Where are we in the World?

We have been learning all about our world, we have explored different ways we can travel around the world, we know we can walk, travel in a car or on the bus in our local area, we can travel by coach or train to places a little further away and can travel by plane or boat to other countries. We have travelled in different ways in our PE sessions.

Our **key concept** was **love**. We thanked God for our families, we talked about ways we can show/share our love with our friends and families.

Our theme this block is:

How do living things change?

Over the next ten weeks, we will be learning all about different kinds of animals and their environments/ habitats. We know that children are very excited about animals of all kinds, which provides an excellent catalyst to drive learning and spark engagement, creativity and enthusiasm in class. We will look at the different types of animals, farm, zoo, pets, mini-beasts, dinosaurs etc.

And our **key concept**:

Happiness

In Nursery, we will **STRIVE** to do our best!

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

This year we will be focusing on being **inquisitive**, **valued** and **exceptional**.

Our class name is **Love** a name that reflects the heart of our Catholic faith. Love is the greatest commandment Jesus gave us – to love God and to love one another. It is through love that we come to know our true worth, as children created and cherished by God.

When we show love in our words and actions – by being kind, patient, forgiving, and respectful – we make others feel valued and, in turn, discover our own value. In living out love each day, our students learn that it is not just a feeling but a choice: a choice to put others first, to build community, and to share God's presence in the world.

Love transforms us, helping each child to grow into a valued individual who brings joy, care, and hope to those around them.



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

Parents as Partners

Working in partnership with parents is a key principle of our effective practice. We have clear systems for ongoing dialogue based on a two-way flow of communication: we use Class Dojo, conversations at the beginning/ end of the day, stay and play sessions, new parent meetings and parent/ teacher meetings. We report progress and children's achievements throughout their time with us on Class Dojo and at termly parent/ teacher meetings. Parents have a frequent report of their children's achievements and have the opportunity to respond with comments, as well as recording learning at home too. Parents are encouraged to contribute home events and activities to their child's Dojo page. Parents also receive an end of year school report.

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

<p style="text-align: center;">A Unique Child</p> <p>We recognise that all children are different. We identify and celebrate their strengths and support their areas for development.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Positive Relationships</p> <p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enabling Environments</p> <p>Our indoor and outdoor areas encourage exploration, investigation, and independent learning. Our displays and resources are well maintained and reflect current learning.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Learning and Development</p> <p>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.</p>

Curriculum

The 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. Early Years Education focuses on seven areas of learning:

Prime areas of learning

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal Social and Emotional Development

Specific areas of learning

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Expressive Arts and Design
- Understanding the World



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

Religious Education: Desert to Garden



Children will learn to respect each other and to respect adults, how to form and maintain good relationships and will learn to say 'sorry' when necessary. The children will hear about what happened at Easter.

- What you can do to help:
- Foster Kindness and Sharing: Encourage children to share toys, help with chores, or perform kind acts, connecting these actions to "doing good things" during Lent.
- Discuss Lent Simply: Talk about Lent as a special time to become better people, emphasizing love, prayer, and helping others.
- Create a "Desert" Space: Set up a small, simple space at home with purple cloths to represent the reflective, quiet time of Lent.
- Prepare for Easter Joy: Discuss the transition from the "desert" (simplicity/fasting) to the "garden" (new life/Easter celebration) by planting seeds or making an Easter garden.
- Practice Saying Sorry: Discuss forgiveness and the importance of saying sorry to friends and family to build positive relationships.
- Engage in Simple Prayer: Encourage short, daily prayers and talk about God's love for them.

Communication and Language



During Block 3 children will be encouraged to join in with repeated refrains and anticipate key events and phrases in rhymes and stories. We will do this on a 1:1, in a small group and as a whole class. They will begin to understand 'why?' and 'how?' questions linked to stories they hear. They will extend vocabulary, especially by grouping and naming, exploring the meaning and sounds of new words. Children will continue to develop their phonological awareness using Phase 1 Phonics, they will listen to and clap syllables in words, listen for initial sounds in words and have an awareness of rhyme and alliteration. They will be encouraged to give meaning to marks as they draw and paint and ascribe meanings to marks that they see in different places. They will copy some letters from their name.

What you can do to help:

- Ask your child what they have been doing at Nursery - use Dojo photos to prompt discussion
- Chat to them at home to encourage listening skills
- Encourage them to ask questions and use question words
- Encourage them to predict what might happen next when sharing stories
- Encourage your child to verbalise when they need help
- Encourage them to draw and attempt to write their names or letters in their name.

Physical Development

Children will develop their abilities to self-care including toileting and getting dressed/undressed. They will take part in a wide range of activities to encourage the development of their gross motor and fine motor skills including. They will move freely and with pleasure and confidence in a range of ways, such as slithering, shuffling, rolling, crawling, walking, running, jumping, skipping, sliding and hopping. We provide the children with lots of 'funky fingers' activities, to develop their fine motor skills in order to prepare for writing. We also encourage the children to visit our mark making area to practice writing, drawing and colouring. Children will continue to show some understanding that good practices regarding exercise, eating, sleeping and hygiene can contribute to good health.

What you can do to help:

- Practise holding a pencil to draw lines and circles
- Encourage your child to draw pictures and colour
- Encourage your child to write their own name
- Practise running, jumping, skipping and climbing
- Encourage your child to use a knife and fork correctly



PE is on a **Wednesday** all children need to come into school in an appropriate PE kit:

- Plain navy-blue joggers
- Light blue polo shirt
- School cardigan/jumper

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will develop confidence to talk to other children when playing and will communicate freely about their own home and community. In Nursery, we encourage the children to be independent and select resources and activities they would like to use. They 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
- Praise your child when they try to do things for themselves
- Encourage your child to get dressed and undressed independently
- Play games with your children, reinforcing turn taking.



Literacy/ Phonics

We will be reading a variety of books as a class and sharing our thoughts and ideas about them. We will be encouraging children to visit our story area where they will find a variety of books to enjoy. We will be learning about books and how they convey meaning by looking at the front cover, words and pictures. In Phonics, we will continue to focus on Phase 1 and start Phase 2 of Letters and Sounds. This involves exploring seven aspects of sounds including environmental, instrumental, body percussion, rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and oral blending/ segmenting.

What you can do to help:

- Read with your child
- Ask your child what sounds they can hear
- Explore different sounds with your child when indoors/ outdoors
- Encourage your child to spot letters and words and say the sound.

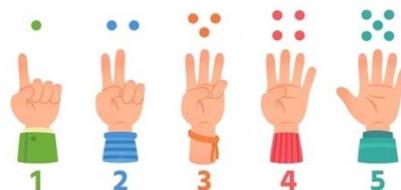


Mathematics

Children will be learning to count and recognise numbers to 5, and beginning to count to 10 and beyond. Children will also be learning about colours, sorting, patterns, size and basic counting principles.

What you can do to help:

- Recognise some numerals
- Talk about colours and colour mixing
- Discuss the language of size e.g. big, small, medium-sized
- Use correct positional language e.g. on, under, on top, next to
- Encourage your child to count objects/ toys
- Count anything and everything!



Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be introduced to a wide variety of art including music, painting, collages, using natural materials, exploring colour and Winter art. We will be creating with materials and learning how to be expressive and imaginative!

What you can do to help:

- Ask your child what they have done at Nursery
- Speak to your child about natural materials
- Talk about the colours of different things.
- Encourage the children to think and play imaginatively and talk about what they are playing/building etc.



Understanding the World

Children will be learning about the past and present, people, culture, communities and the natural world. We will also be learning about the weather, seasons and ICT.



What you can do to help:

- Speak to your child about any animals you see when you are out and about.
- Talk about how we need to look after animals.
- Talk about the seasonal changes and different weather types.
- Discuss how to look after their body and keep it clean

We are all really looking forward to the rest of this year and I hope your children enjoy all the exciting things we have in store. If you have any queries at all, please feel free to speak to me after school, or drop me a message on Class Dojo.

Kind Regards,
Mrs Clarke