

Welcome to Year 2

Gentleness Class!

Ms Smith (Class Teacher) and Mrs Rodgers (TA)

Welcome back to ST. Simons Catholic School! We are very excited to welcome you into our Year 2 Gentleness class! Our name has been inspired by our **STRIVE** curriculum, and this year we will be focusing on the key Catholic value of gentleness. We will be making sure we are gentle in our words and our actions, as Jesus showed us through his gentleness and kindness towards those who were vulnerable or sick. Through gentleness we will listen to and support each other throughout the year.

STRIVE

At St Simon's we use the acronym **STRIVE** to show the qualities that every child at St Simon's should aim to have. This year we will be looking at developing being **valued** in all areas of our learning. Children who demonstrate this will have the opportunity to win our **STRIVE** award!

Spiritual	Trusted	Resilient	Inquisitive	Valued	Exceptional
* Have good manners and be courteous * Be considerate of others * Show God's love in our actions	* Use and look after equipment responsibly * Begin to work independently * Make my own decisions to help me learn (without relying on the teacher)	* Keep trying when things are hard * Have pride in my work, making it the best it can be * Share my ideas confidently	* Ask questions about my learning * Think about what I've learnt before and how this can help * Understand that to try new things is to	* Listen to what others have to say * Respect what adults ask me to do * Appreciate that everybody has strengths in different areas	* Listen to what others have to say * Respect what adults ask me to do * Appreciate that everybody has strengths in different areas

What we will be learning

This term for Geography our big question is: *What Do We Know About Planet Earth?*

Through the themes of stewardship, responsibility and sustainability we will explore the 7 continents and 5 oceans. Using maps, atlases, and globes, we will develop curiosity about our planet while learning about a variety of cultures and traditions.

In English, we will continue with our ELS phonics programme, moving on to the ELS Spelling Rules. Our writing lessons will be inspired by rich texts including 'A River' and 'The Night Gardener' giving us the chance to explore texts through drama, learning new vocabulary, practising key speaking and listening skills, and helping us to 'immerse', 'Analyse', 'Plan' and 'Write'.

In Maths, we will deepen our understanding of place value through addition and subtraction. We will also consolidate number bonds and practise counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s. Please support your child through regular practice on TT Rockstars at home, as this will further help to support your child's fluency and understanding.

Alongside these subjects, we will continue to live out our school values by:

- Showing good manners, kindness, and respect
- Acting responsibly and looking after equipment
- Working independently and making decisions that support our learning
- Persevering with challenges and taking pride in our work
- Asking questions, sharing ideas, and applying prior learning
- Recognising and celebrating everyone's different strengths

- Being ready to learn and modelling positive behaviour across school

Homework

Supporting your child with their home learning is vital to build self-confidence and further consolidate and embed their learning. Please feel free to contact me if you require clarity or support on any of the homework provided.

In Year 2, the children have 3 different homework activities each week:

1) Maths Journal- set every Friday due in the following Wednesday

The children will be directed to a page in their Maths Journal to complete – this will be linked to their work that they have been completing in school that week.

2) Reading – online- set every Friday-due the following Friday

* Children will use Reading Eggs.

* A comprehension lesson will be set on a Friday and will be due the following Friday.



3) Spelling – spelling homework books- set every Friday, tests will be the following Friday.

* Children will receive spellings to practise each week.

* Children need to pick 1 activity from the spelling activities list inside the front cover of their spelling homework book and complete.



Reading

Reading is the key to academic success! As well as immersing children into different imaginative worlds, it enriches their vocabulary and comprehension skills! Reading every day will ensure your child make progress- I'd suggest for a minimum of 10 minutes every day.

Children will have 2 books (3 if they are continuing on phonics decodable texts). These will be changed on a Tuesday and Friday.

-1. Shared reader – These books are for you to share with your child to encourage them to apply their phonics and comprehension skills. These books are changed every Friday – depending on the child's understanding of the text and align with the way we assess our children's reading progress. The more you read these books at home, the more progress your child will make across the curriculum!

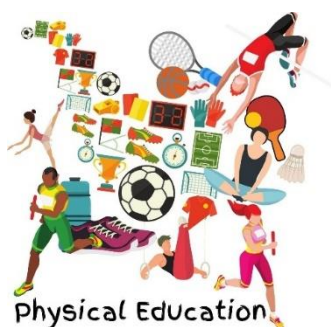
- 2. Library book- each week your child will be taken to our school library to select a book to read for pleasure in our mission to foster a love of reading amongst our learners.

Some children may also bring home a third book (decodable reader) if they are still securing their phonics:

- 3. Decodable reader – These books are to practise specific phonic sounds and form part of phonics 'catch up' interventions.

Please ensure your child's reading packet (with their decodable reader, shared reader and reading record) is in school every day and that your child's reading record is filled in every time they read and signed once they have finished their book in order that it can be changed.

The children will move up colour bands for their Shared Reader as their reading progresses. 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. They need to be able to confidently answer a range of questions such as: recalling the events of the story, predicting what might happen next and why, deducing the meaning of words from the context clues on the page, inferring why a character did or said something and we focus on other areas too.



PE

PE will take place every **Thursday morning this term.**

On these days, please ensure your child comes to school wearing their **outdoor PE kit and trainers (if possible)**, as we will aim to be outside whenever the weather is suitable. This term, we will be focusing on **developing fundamental skills and ball skills.**

Forest school

Forest School will take place every **Wednesday morning this term.** Please wear suitable clothing as it is likely to be wet and muddy (a change of clothes may be required if your child doesn't have waterproof trousers or a waterproof jumpsuit).

Class Dojo

We use **Class Dojo** to celebrate and promote our school values through **STRIVE**. Children earn positive points for demonstrating these key skills, and it also provides an easy way for you to get in touch with me if you have any questions. Please make sure you are signed up so that we can share your child's learning journey with you.



Upcoming Events

- **Class Assembly – Friday, 10th October at 2.45pm**
- **Y2 Celebration of the Word - Thursday, 6th November at 3pm**
- Please check the school website for other dates and events.

Clothing and snacks: please ensure your child brings a waterproof coat to school as the weather becomes colder and wetter. If you would like to send your child to school with a snack, please ensure this is a piece of fruit.

Contact: If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via Class Dojo, or at the end of the day on the playground. A telephone call or in-person meeting can also be arranged if required.

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

Best wishes

Ms Smith and Mrs Rodgers



Nothing is so strong as gentleness

*and nothing is so gentle
as true strength.
- St. Francis De Sales*