

Year 4 Block 4 Class Page

We are delighted to commence Block Four, which promises a wealth of enriching learning opportunities and engaging activities. Mrs Oates and Mrs Rostron are looking forward to welcoming the children back refreshed, motivated and eager to immerse themselves in our new topics. We are excited to share another wonderful block of learning together.

This Year, our class name '**Patience**' has been inspired by one of Fruits of the Holy Spirit, which will underpin our **STRIVE** curriculum as we aspire to **value** one another by actively listening with **patience** and kindness, then responding thoughtfully to show respect for each other's ideas and feelings. At St Simon's we use the acronym **STRIVE** to show the qualities that every child should aim to have. Children who show aspects of **value** in their learning (See column below) will have the opportunity to achieve a **STRIVE** award.

S	T	R	I	V	E
Spiritual	Trusted	Resilient	Inquisitive	Valued	Exceptional
*Show respect	*Be relied upon	*Have a go	*Ask questions	*Listen to each other	*Be outstanding
*Have beliefs	*Show responsibility	*Keep on trying	*Be eager to learn	*Work as a team	*Show your strengths
*Be reflective	*Take care of people and property	*Show independence	*Discover new things	*Share opinions	*Take on challenge

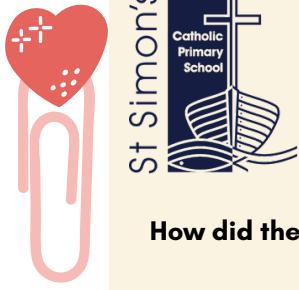
What did we learn in Block 3?

The children in Year 4 have enjoyed an exciting and highly productive block of learning, engaging enthusiastically in a wide range of rich and diverse experiences across the curriculum.

In English, the children became accomplished authors as they planned, drafted and refined their "Defeating a Viking Monster Information Guide", inspired by our focus text Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton. In Maths, the children demonstrated great determination as they deepened their understanding of fractions and decimals. Their learning focused on recognising wholes, proper and improper fractions, as well as converting confidently between different forms. The children also explored equivalent fractions and developed secure methods for creating them, supported by our fractions motto: "Whatever you do to the bottom, you do to the top," which helped to promote accuracy and confidence in their workings out.

Within our R.E lessons and a truly magical Easter performance, the talented children of Years 3 and 4 beautifully retold the Easter story, beginning with Palm Sunday as Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with joy and waving palms. The story then journeyed through the Last Supper, where Jesus shared a special meal with his disciples, before moving to the sadness of Good Friday. Finally, the children shared the wonder and hope of Easter Sunday, when Jesus rose again, bringing light and new life to the world. Through their heartfelt acting, singing and storytelling, the children brought this important story to life, reminding us of the message of hope, love and new beginnings that Easter represents.

In Gymnastics, the Year 4 children immersed themselves in developing both individual and partner balances, building confidently on their prior learning of basic gymnastic shapes from Year 3. The children began by revisiting shapes such as the tuck, pike, straddle, dish, arch, front support and back support focusing particularly on control and body tension. As the lessons progressed, the children explored how these shapes could be adapted and combined within partner work. A strong emphasis was placed on safety, with pupils learning where and how to hold their partners to create a secure and stable base. They discussed the importance of clear communication, trust and correct hand placement to support one another effectively. Through this, the children developed an understanding of how maintaining strong body tension contributes to balance and control. By the end of the unit, many pupils were able to confidently hold their balances for five seconds, demonstrating improved strength, coordination and teamwork. It was fantastic to see the children's creativity flourish.



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In Block 4, our concept question is:

How did the Romans' approach to responsibility and community help shape Britain, and what can we learn from their understanding of health and the common good?

We will access this through the themes of **community, responsibility** and **common good**.

What will we be learning in this block?

In Literacy, we will be continuing to launch our new Ready Steady Write scheme of learning, which provides children with enriched opportunities to enhance their sentence structure and grammar skills in preparation for planning, writing and editing two extended pieces of work: a Refugee narrative and a diary inspired by our focus text *The Journey* by Francesca Sanna.

In Mathematics, the children in Year 4 will begin by studying money, where they will develop their understanding of pounds and pence, record amounts using decimal notation, and compare, estimate and calculate with money. They will also apply these skills to solve a range of practical, real-life problems involving addition, subtraction and finding change. The children will then move on to time, where they will deepen their understanding of hours, minutes and seconds. They will read, write and convert time confidently between analogue and digital clocks, including using the 24-hour clock. In addition, they will explore units of time such as years, months, weeks and days, and solve problems involving durations of time. In shape, the children will strengthen their geometric understanding by recognising angles as turns, identifying right angles, acute angles and obtuse angles, and comparing and ordering angles by size. They will also revise key properties of 2D shapes and symmetry. To conclude the year, the children will study statistics, where they will interpret and present data using charts and graphs, alongside position and direction, learning to describe movement, coordinates and translation with increasing accuracy and confidence.

Alongside this enriching learning, the children will also take part in the Multiplication Tables Check, providing them with the opportunity to showcase their fluency, confidence and secure knowledge of their times tables.

In PSHE, the children will follow the *Life to the Full* programme by Ten Ten. As part of this scheme, they will explore how to keep themselves safe, with a particular focus on understanding the risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and learning how to continually make safe, informed choices. They will then move on to the unit *Created to Live in Community*, where the children will reflect on the question, "How do I love others?" Through this learning, the pupils will consider the importance of kindness, respect, empathy and building positive relationships within their families, friendships and the wider community.

In Spanish, the children will study *Mi Familia (My Family)*, where they will develop the vocabulary, knowledge and language skills needed to create and deliver a presentation about their own or a fictional family in both spoken and written Spanish.

As part of Schools Linking, the children will continue to lead their chosen social action projects, helping to enhance the school environment and make a positive contribution to the wider community. They will participate in a range of purposeful activities that they have selected themselves, including litter picking and acting as recycling champions, planting flowers on the turning circle, planting a class tree within Forest School, creating a painted pebble trail featuring uplifting messages, and constructing bug hotels and bird feeders to support local wildlife. In addition, the children will design informative posters to be displayed around the school site, promoting important themes such as protecting new seedlings, reducing litter, responsible dog ownership and encouraging the use of the buddy bench. Later in the term, we will visit our link school in Sale, where the children will take part in a variety of collaborative team-building activities. These experiences will provide valuable opportunities to strengthen friendships, develop confidence and build meaningful relationships with pupils from their partner school.



Homework

Please see below for the homework schedule.

Please note that all homework is to be completed for the following Thursday to allow time for it to be marked and returned back to your child on Friday.

If your child is a free reader, they will be encouraged to choose their books from the School Library to ensure they are exposed to a wide range of genres.

	Reading books	Homework set
Monday	Reading book change	
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday	Reading books change	Maths homework journal is collected for marking.
Friday		Spellings Set every Friday and tested the following Friday. Reading Eggspress Online weekly assignment. Maths Journal Double page spread linked to current learning in Maths. TT Rockstars, Hit the Button, Top Marks & Super Maths Bowling To develop multiplication fluency in preparation for the Multiplication Check.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This block, PE lessons will be held on Mondays (indoors) and Wednesdays (outdoors), with a focus on fitness and cricket. On these days, children should attend school in their indoor PE kit due to the warmer weather. This includes navy blue shorts or tracksuit bottoms, a pale blue polo shirt, black or white socks, and comfortable trainers. Hair should be tied back, and hair accessories such as bows, headbands, or decorative items are not permitted. All jewellery, including watches, must be removed.



ClassDojo

The school uses Class Dojo as a way to promote **STRIVE**. On Class Dojo, your child will receive positive points for displaying the key skills within **STRIVE**. Please make sure you have signed up to Class Dojo so that I can share your child's learning with you, throughout the block. Additionally, please use this parental platform to contact Mrs Oates with any queries that you have.

Key Dates:

- **Monday 4th May:** School closed due to Bank Holiday.
- **Thursday 7th May:** School closed to pupils due to staff training day.
- **Friday 8th May:** Fun Friday Art theme with World Cup Focus.
- **Thursday 14th May:** Year 4 Mass at 2:45pm.
- **Friday 22nd May:** School closes for half-term.
- **Monday 8th June:** School re-opens.
- **Friday 12th June:** Whole school talent show.
- **Wednesday 17th June & Friday 19th June:** Fathers Day Sale.
- **Friday 26th June:** KS2 to attend Mass at St Peter's Church.
- **Friday 26th June:** Y4 Assembly at 2:45pm.
- **Tuesday 30th June:** Year 4's school linking trip, Firs Primary to visit St Simon's (packed lunch required).
- **Monday 6th July:** KS2 sports day at 2:45pm.
- **Tuesday 7th July:** Year 4's school linking trip to Firs Primary, Sale (packed lunch required).
- **Wednesday 8th July:** Year 4 Reports are emailed out to parents.
- **Tuesday 14th July:** Parents meetings (optional)
- **Friday 17th July:** School closes for the summer holidays.

Follow us on X: @StSimonsSch

Our PTA have a Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Simons-Catholic-Primary-School-PTA-649590165143369>

Kind regards,
Mrs Oates

Thank you in advance for your support throughout the year to aid your child's development and progress. The partnership between school and home is crucial to reinforce concepts learnt and enable your child to reach their full potential. We are looking forward to what the year ahead holds. If you have any questions or queries, please contact Mrs Oates on Class Dojo.

