



Year 4 Block 3 Class Page

We are excited to begin block three full of fantastic learning opportunities and engaging activities. Mrs Oates, along with our two wonderful teaching assistants, Mrs Rostron and Mrs Davies, are looking forward to seeing the children refreshed, ready to learn and eager to dive into our new topics.

We can't wait to share another brilliant block 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 Spiritual	T Trusted	R Resilient	I Inquisitive	V Valued	E 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 2?

The children of Year 4 have had an exciting and action-packed block of learning, immersing themselves into a wide range of rich and varied learning experiences across the curriculum. In English, the children became authors as they planned, wrote and edited impressive information reports all about polar bears, packed full of fascinating facts to wow their target audience. In Maths, the children worked with great determination to deepen their understanding of multiplication and division, as well as exploring length and perimeter with growing confidence.

Our Humanities lessons took the children on a journey across Europe, where they explored a variety of countries, paying close attention to their human and physical features. The children enjoyed comparing similarities to discover how countries are connected, while also celebrating the differences that make each one unique. They then carried out their own independent research on a country of their choice and proudly presented their findings to the rest of the class. In our Science lessons, the children turned into young scientists as they investigated the three states of matter, carrying out a range of experiments with maturity, care and enthusiasm.

Design and Technology was a definite highlight, as the children tasted, made and evaluated their own festive gingerbread biscuits, which were proudly sold at St Simon's Christmas Fair! In Art, the children produced some truly beautiful paintings and prints inspired by the artist William Morris, and these wonderful masterpieces are now on display in our school hall for all to admire. We finished the block on a high-energy note, with the children being incredibly active through swimming, forest school, rugby and a daily mile, all in support of Children's Mental Health Week. What a fantastic end to a brilliant block of learning!



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In Block 3, our concept question is:

How did Roman rule in Britain lead to feelings of belonging, oppression and protest among different groups of people?

We will access this through the themes of **belonging, protest** and **oppression**.

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 being a Myth Narrative and a Defeating a Viking Monster Information Guide inspired by our focus text Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton.

In Mathematics, the children in Year Four will be studying fractions including decimals, with a focus on understanding wholes, proper and improper fractions and learning how to convert between different forms. The children will explore what equivalent fractions are and will develop confidence in adding and subtracting fractional amounts. In their work on money, they will learn how to record amounts using decimals, as well as compare, estimate, calculate and solve real-life problems involving money. Finally, the block will conclude with a focus on time, where pupils will deepen their understanding of hours, minutes and seconds. To further this, the children will explore years, months, weeks and days and will practice converting between analogue and digital time.

In Science, the children will be learning about sound and electricity through practical exploration and investigation. During the sound unit, pupils will discover that sound is produced by vibrations and travels in waves through the three states of matter; solids, liquids and gases. They will explore how sound waves move through different parts of the ear and send signals to the brain, enabling us to hear. The unit will conclude with an exciting hands-on project in which children design and create their own musical instruments, exploring how pitch and volume can be changed.

In the electricity unit of work, the children will develop an understanding that electricity can transfer energy in the form of heat, light, sound or movement as it flows through circuits and wires. They will learn how to construct simple electrical circuits, investigate how to make a bulb brighter and explore how switches control the flow of electricity enabling us to light bulbs up and turn them off. The children will excitedly explore which materials are effective conductors and insulators of electricity. To conclude the unit, they will participate in a child-led design challenge, applying everything they have learnt about electricity in a creative and practical way.

In Computing, the children will focus on developing their coding skills by learning how to use co-ordinates and loops in computer programming. They will explore how these features can be used to control movement and repeat actions efficiently, preparing them to design and create their very own interactive game. As part of this process, the children will learn how to include a scoring system that can track and record scores during gameplay.



St Simon's





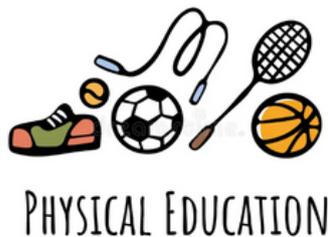
Homework

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.



This block, PE lessons will take place on Mondays (indoors) and Thursdays (outdoors). The focus for this block will be Swimming, Rugby, and Athletics. On these days, children are expected to come to school wearing their outdoor PE kit due to the cold weather. This consists of navy blue sweatpants, a pale blue polo shirt, and their usual school jumper or cardigan



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:

- **Thursday 5th February: Year 4 Mass.**
- **Friday 6th February: Fun Friday Bollywood theme.**
- **Thursday 12th February: 12:30pm - 10:30pm Young Voices.**
- **Friday 13th February: School closes for Half term.**
- **Monday 23rd February: School closed for Staff Inset Day.**
- **Tuesday 24th February: School reopens for Children and Staff.**
- **Friday 27th February: St David's House to wear yellow to school.**
- **Saturday 28th February: 10:30am Stockport Harriers School Cross Country Race at Woodbank Park.**
- **Friday 6th March: World Book Day celebration.**
- **Tuesday 10th March: School Photographer in School for class photographs.**
- **Friday 20th March: Faith Explorers Assembly.**
- **Saturday 21st March: Stockport Harriers School Cross Country Presentation Day.**
- **Monday 23rd March: Year 4's last swimming session.**
- **Thursday 26th March: 3:45-7pm Parent/Teacher meetings - face to face.**
- **Wednesday 1st April: 2pm Year3/4 Easter production.**
- **Thursday 2nd April: 1:30pm KS2 Reconciliation with Fr. Philip**
- **Thursday 2nd April: School closes for Easter 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.

