

Welcome to Foundation Stage 2/ Reception

Joy Class

Our Team:

Class Teacher:

Mrs Fischer

Mrs McNally (PPA Cover)

Teaching Assistants:

Mrs Stewart



A warm welcome to all new children and parents at St Simon's. We are very excited for your child to be joining our school. I am Mrs Fischer and I am the Reception Class Teacher. A former St Simon's pupil myself, I can definitely assure you that St Simon's is a special and happy place for your child to begin their journey in education!

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 this block is 'Who Am I?'

Over the next ten weeks we will be learning all about ourselves including what we look like, where we live, who is in our family and how we can care for one another.

We will also be exploring the concept of '**responsibility**' through asking the question '**How can I take care of God's World?**'

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.



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.

In Reception we will

STRIVE

to do our best by:

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

Homework

Reading

Please read with your child **EVERY DAY** building up to 10mins.

Children will have 2 books:



- **Decodable reader** – These books are to practise specific phonic sounds and may stay with your child for several weeks.
- **Shared reader** – These books are for you to share with your child to encourage a love of reading and include some of the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme books and some fiction, non-fiction and poetry. These reading books will be collected in and changed **twice a week**.

Children's reading books will be changed on a **Monday** and **Thursday**. **Please make sure you have signed the reading record or books will not be changed.**

The children will move up colour bands. 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

Children will also have a log in to Reading Eggs. You are able to access this from home, children are encouraged to use this at home.

Handwriting

Children will be given handwriting to practice each **Thursday**, to be completed by the following **Thursday**.



Maths

Children will have a small Maths homework book with a weekly number task set in it to complete at home. This will also be set each **Thursday**, to be completed by the following **Thursday**.

Children will be provided with a log in for:

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

Tuesday 9th September – Meet the Teacher 3:40pm

Friday 12th September – Reception & Year 6 Special Friends Assembly – 2:45pm in the school hall.

Thursday 25th September – School photographer in school – individual and sibling photos

Friday 3rd October – PTA Family Night 7pm – St Peter's Parish Centre

Thursday 20th November – EYFS Celebration of the Word – 3pm in the school hall.





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.

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

Religious Education: Creation and Covenant

Our first theme introduces children to the belief that God created the world and everything in it. Children learn about the Creation stories from the Bible and understand that they, like all living things, are loved by God. They will also learn about a "covenant," which is a special promise or relationship God has with people, introduced through stories of Abraham or Moses from the Old Testament. Our overall aim is to build a foundation of faith, love for God's creation, and understanding of their place within God's family



What you can do to help:

- Discuss the Bible as a special book, reinforcing that God made and loves them.
- Involve the children in caring for animals and the environment through practical actions like recycling.

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.

