

Welcome to St Simon's Nursery 2025-2026 Love Class



Routine

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 all 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 RE, Maths, Literacy, Phonics 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>



Meet the Team

Class Teacher

Mrs Clarke/Mrs McNally

Teaching Assistants

Mrs Stewart



A very warm welcome to St Simon's to all our new children and parents.

Mrs McNally will cover my time out of class.

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

The weekly newsletter and Class Dojo keep you updated on events.

We invite all parents to join us for our Whole School Liturgy on Fridays at 2.45pm in the school hall. Nursery children do not attend this straight away.

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.

Communication

Class Dojo

We use an app called Class Dojo which you all have been invited to join. This is a two-way communication tool, where we can send messages and photos to update you with any key dates or information. Please make sure to join us!



ClassDojo



Follow us on Twitter / X @StSimonsSch

General Information

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

Our theme this block is:



Over the next ten weeks, we will be using our **STRIVE** value, inquisitive, to learn all about ourselves; including what we look like and what we can do, where we live, who is in our family and how we can care for one another. Children will be talking about similarities and differences between themselves and their friends. We will be celebrating how God made each of us unique and what makes us special.

Our key concept this block is;

responsibility

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 **Spiritual**, **Trusted** and **Resilient**.

We are especially focussing on **Valued**.

This year our class will be known as **Love Class**, 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.

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.

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 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.

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. 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
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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 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.

Communication and Language

Children will be working on developing their speaking and listening skills. This will be through listening to stories, song and rhymes linked to our topic and discussion during circle time. The children will begin to build friendships, where adults will encourage them to talk to each other using good listening skills.

We will also be supporting the children to learn the rules and routines in Nursery.

What you can do to help:

- Ask your child what they have been doing at Nursery.
- Chat to them at home to encourage listening skills.
- Encourage them to ask questions and use question words.



Physical Development

In PE, we will be focusing on dancing and gymnastics. Children will also have access to our outdoor area as well as our bike track. Here they will be able to practise different ways of moving, including running, jumping and skipping. These activities will develop their gross motor skills. 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 practise writing, drawing and colouring. Children will begin to show some understanding that good practices regarding exercise, eating, sleeping and hygiene can contribute to good health.

What you can do to help:

- Use play dough with your child.
- Practise holding a pencil to draw lines and circles.
- Encourage your child to draw pictures.
- Encourage your child to write their own name.
- Practise running, jumping, skipping and climbing.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will be settling into Nursery and learning the new routines. They will be supported to have confidence in themselves and to initiate conversations with other children and adults. In Nursery, we encourage the children to be independent and select resources and activities they would like to use. Children will be encouraged to describe themselves in positive terms and talk about their 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.
- Praise your child when they try to do things for themselves.
- 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.



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. We will be taking part in World Nursery Rhyme week in November. In Phonics, we will be focusing on Phase 1 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 they can hear.
- Explore different sounds with your child when indoors/ outdoors.
- Encourage your child to spot letters and words in the environment and say the sound they make.

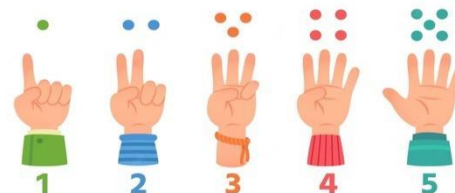


Mathematics

Children will be learning to count and recognise numbers to 5, number composition and beginning to count to 10 and beyond. 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. Show 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.
- 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 autumn art.

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.



Understanding the World

Children will be learning about themselves, their body and their family. They will be learning what makes them unique. We will also be learning about the weather, seasons and ICT.

What you can do to help:

- Speak to your child about their likes and dislikes.
- Talk about your family and where you live.
- Focus on different senses.
- Discuss how to look after their body and keep it clean

