

Year 4 Block 2 Class Page

A warm welcome back after the half-term break! We hope you have all enjoyed a restful and fun week with family and friends. We are excited to begin block two 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 1?

The children of Year 4 have made a fantastic start to the year. In Block One, they showcased their enthusiasm and curiosity across all areas of learning. In English, the children wrote a descriptive setting narrative, then produced an exciting newspaper report about a suspicious marine species that has entered the deep, dark depths of the sea. In Maths, they strengthened their place value knowledge and worked hard to secure their understanding of the four operations.

Through their topic work, the children immersed themselves in the history of Ancient Greece, exploring its culture, daily life and lasting influence. In Computing, they learnt the importance of keeping themselves safe online and knowing that they can reach out to their trusted adults should they be worried about SPAM or inappropriate content. In PE the children enjoyed developing accuracy and teamwork in preparation for learning the rules of dodgeball. In Science, they explored the characteristics of living things including plants and animals, and how they are classified. Overall, Block One has been a productive and engaging start to Year 4 and the children should be proud of all they have achieved.



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In Block 2, our concept question is: How do natural processes like volcanoes, earthquakes and the water cycle create both beauty and fear through the changes they bring to our world?

We will access this through the themes of **beauty, fear** and **change**.

What will we be learning in this block?

During this block of learning, the children will develop their understanding of Europe by learning to locate the continent's major countries, including Russia and identifying their capital cities. They will explore key physical features such as significant mountains and rivers, building a geographical foundation that supports their historical studies. With this knowledge, the pupils will then compare their own local area with a contrasting region in Europe. Their focus will be on Greece and Rome, two ancient civilisations whose landscapes, cultures, and histories have shaped the world we live in today.

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 a successful outside narrative and polar bear information text inspired by our focus narrative Leaf by Sandra Dieckmann.

This term, in Maths, the children will continue to build confidence and fluency in key mathematical concepts. They will be securing their understanding of multiplication and division, using a range of strategies to solve problems and deepen their number sense. Alongside this, pupils will explore length and perimeter, learning how to measure accurately, compare units, and calculate the perimeter of different shapes. Later in the term, the children will move on to developing their understanding of fractions. They will learn to recognise and represent fractions in different ways, compare and order them, and apply their knowledge to practical and problem-solving contexts. Through hands-on tasks, guided practice, and real-life applications, pupils will strengthen their mathematical reasoning and broaden the skills needed for future learning.

In Design and technology, the children will explore the world of food design through a festive biscuit project. They will begin by sampling a variety of biscuits, carefully evaluating each one based on taste, texture and smell. By identifying the strengths and weaknesses of existing products, pupils will develop an understanding of what makes a successful biscuit and what could be improved. Using their findings, the children will then design their own Christmas-themed gingerbread biscuit. They will plan its shape, flavour and decoration, considering both creativity and practicality. Following their design plans, pupils will make and decorate their biscuits, developing key skills in measuring, mixing and assembling ingredients. To conclude the project, the children will evaluate their finished biscuits, reflecting on what worked well and what they might change next time. Their final products will then be packaged and sold at the school Christmas fair, giving pupils real-life experience of designing for a purpose.



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 take turns in choosing books with staff 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 in for marking.
Friday		Spellings Set every Friday, tested the following Friday. Reading eggs Maths Journal TT Rockstars, Hit the Button & Super Maths Bowling to develop multiplication fluency in preparation for the Multiplication Check.





PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This block, our PE sessions will take place every Wednesday (outdoor) and Thursday. The focus for this block will be Forest School, Yoga, and Basketball. On both days, children should come to school wearing their outdoor PE kit, as the weather is becoming colder. This includes navy blue sweatpants, a pale blue polo shirt, and their usual school jumper or cardigan.

For Forest School sessions, children must also wear their puddle suits/overalls and wellies or walking boots. Additional warm layers—such as hats, gloves, and scarves or neck warmers are advised to ensure that your child stay warm and comfortable in all weather conditions, as Forest School runs come rain or shine.



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 10th November:** Odd Sock day for Anti Bullying Week.
- **Friday 14th November:** Fun Friday (Mark 10 mission).
- **Friday 14th November:** Year 4 Assembly at 2:45pm in the School Hall.
- **Wb 17/11/25:** Year 4 to begin forest school every Wednesday – (pm session).
- **Saturday 22nd November:** Stockport Harriers Cross Country Race (Y3 - Y6) from 10:30am, at Wood bank Park Athletics Stadium.
- **Wb 24/11/25:** Assessment week.
- **Thursday 27th November:** Christmas Fair.
- **Friday 28th November:** St Andrew's House to wear blue.
- **Friday 5th December:** Christmas jumper day.
- **Tuesday 16th December:** Pantomime.
- **Wednesday 17th December:** Christmas Dinner and Class parties.

Follow us on X: @StSimonsSch

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

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.

Kind regards,
Mrs Oates

