



## Welcome to Year 2

### Maria Montessori Class



Mrs Oates (Class Teacher)

Mrs O'Callaghan (Teaching Assistant - am)

Miss Trueman (Teaching Assistant - pm)

A warm welcome back to Y2! Mrs Oates, Mrs O'Callaghan and Miss Trueman are so excited to welcome you back for the final block of Year 2! This Year seems to have gone faster than we could have imagined, and before we know it the children will be transitioning into Lower Key Stage Two.



This year our class name is inspired by one of history's greatest educators, Maria Montessori, which will underpin our **STRIVE** curriculum as we aspire to be inquisitive and the very best version of ourselves!

### **STRIVE**

At St Simon's we use the acronym **STRIVE** to show the qualities that every child should aim to have. This year we will be looking at the children developing their inquisitiveness in all aspects of school life. Children who show aspects of inquisitive in their learning (See column below) will have the opportunity to win a **STRIVE** award.

Spiritual	Trusted	Resilient	Inquisitive	Valued	Exceptional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Have good manners and be courteous</li> <li>* Be considerate of others</li> <li>* Show God's love in our actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Use and look after equipment responsibly</li> <li>* Begin to work independently</li> <li>* Make my own decisions to help me learn (without relying on the teacher)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Keep trying when things are hard</li> <li>* Have pride in my work, making it the best it can be</li> <li>* Share my ideas confidently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Ask questions about my learning</li> <li>* Think about what I've learnt before and how this can help</li> <li>* Understand that to try new things is to take a risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Listen to what others have to say</li> <li>* Respect what adults ask me to do</li> <li>* Appreciate that everybody has strengths in different areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Make sure I am ready to learn</li> <li>* Apply my knowledge in all subject areas</li> <li>* Be a good role model around school at all times</li> </ul>

### What we learnt in Block 3:

During Block 3, we had great fun developing our computing skills by researching and fact finding about big cats. We then integrated this information into our non-chronological reports and shared our jokes amongst our friends.

In Maths, we explored and compared mass, capacity and temperature by reading a range of scales that increased and decreased in different increments.

During our outdoor PE sessions in Forest School, we learnt a range of insightful, lifelong skills such as how to pitch a tent safely and securely, and how to cook on the fire ensuring that we remained in the respect position to keep our self safe at all times.

### What will we be learning in this block?

During this block of learning, we are going to be investigating the question, **Who has the power to change the world?** We will access this through the themes of **creativity** and **care**.

As a class, we will learn about significant people in History, who made a difference including Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther and Marcus Rashford.

In English, we will focus on innovating the story narrative 'Somebody swallowed Stanley' by Sarah Roberts and writing a persuasive letter about the impact of pollution on the environment. Suggesting necessary ways in which we can improve pollution such as, recycling.

With cross curricular links to Science, the children will explore ways in which they can protect the environment in which they live.

In Maths, the children will begin their learning on Fractions, recognising a half, third and quarter. They will then progress onto learning to tell the time. Focussing on the minutes and hours in the day.





**Supporting your child at home will enhance their academic progress, confidence and consolidate what they have been learning at school. I would really appreciate your support with this. Should you have any queries or need any support with accessing any of the homework materials please reach out to me and I will happily help you.**

In Year 2, the children be set **three** different homework activities each week.

### **1) Maths**

The children will be directed to complete a double page spread in their Maths Journal which will correspond to their current Mathematics learning in school. This task will be set on a **Friday** for the following **Friday**. Should the children wish to stretch and challenge their further learning, they may access the challenge task on the following page where they will be exposed to questions involving reasoning and problem solving.

### **2) Reading Eggs**

A comprehension lesson with cross curricular links to the children's learning will be set on a **Friday** and will be due in on the following **Friday**.



### **3) Spelling**

The children will receive a list of **eight** spellings to practise each week. Your child will need to pick **one activity** from the spelling activities list inside the front cover of their spelling homework book and complete it. Spellings are given out on a **Thursday/Friday**, and your child will be tested on these words the following **Friday**.



**Reading is the key to academic success! As well as immersing children into different imaginative worlds. Reading enriches children's vocabulary and comprehension skills!**

In Year Two, reading is encouraged every day for a **minimum of 10 minutes** to enable your child to benefit from the above.

Your child will have **two** books:

- **A shared reader** – These books encourage the children to apply their taught phonics and comprehension skills. Books are changed twice weekly on a **Tuesday and Friday** – depending on the child's understanding of the text and align with the way we assess our children's reading progress. **The more your child reads at home, the more progress they will make across the curriculum.**

- **Library book**- each week your child will be taken to our school library to select a book to read for pleasure in our mission to foster a love of reading amongst our learners.

Some children may also bring home a third book if they are still securing their phonic knowledge:

- **Decodable reader** – These books are to practise specific phonic sounds and form part of phonics 'catch up' interventions we deliver at school.

Please ensure that your child's reading packet (with their decodable reader, shared reader and reading record) comes to school with them **every day** and that your child's reading record is filled in every time they read and signed once they have finished their book (in order for it to be changed).

The children will move up colour bands for their **Shared Reader** as their reading progresses. 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** including: recalling the events of the story, predicting what might happen next and why, deducing the meaning of words from the context clues on the page, inferring why a character did or said something.

## **PE**

This block, the children's PE days will be on a **Wednesday** and **Thursday** with the primary focus being on team building, striking, fielding games, fitness and athletics. On these days, the children will be expected to attend school in their indoor PE kit since the weather is getting warmer, which consists of a pale blue polo, navy joggers/shorts, school jumper/cardigan and trainers.



## **Class Dojo**

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.



**Follow us on X:** @StSimonsSch

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

Thank you for your continued support 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.

Mrs O'Callahan, Miss Trueman and I are looking forward to what next block holds. If you have any questions or queries, please contact me on Class Dojo.

**Kind regards,**

**Mrs Oates**