



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 – How do living things change?**

Over the next 10 weeks, Joy Class will be taking the next step on their learning adventure, they'll be learning all about different animals and their habitats. They will learn about the foods different animals like to eat and the way animals have evolved and adapted to different habitats and our changing world.

We will also be exploring the concept of '**Happiness**' through asking the question '**How do we share our happiness with others?**'

### **Joy Class**

This year our class name is **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. We will celebrate the Joy of Easter Sunday when Jesus rises from the dead.

## 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.

Your child's PE kit should consist of plain navy joggers/leggings, a light blue polo top and their school jumper or cardigan with trainers.

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**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – School closes for half term

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – school reopens

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February – St David's house to wear yellow

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day celebration

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Class photographs

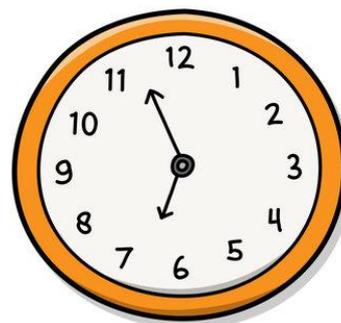
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – 8:30am – 11am School Nurse Drop-in

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – St Patrick's House to wear green

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – EYFS celebration of the word

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Parents evening – in person

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – School closes for the Easter Holidays



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.

Kind Regards

Mrs Fischer

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

### **Religious Education: Desert to Garden**

Children will learn to respect each other and to respect adults, how to form and maintain good relationships and will learn to say 'sorry' when necessary. The children will hear about what happened at Easter.



- What you can do to help:
- Foster Kindness and Sharing: Encourage children to share toys, help with chores, or perform kind acts, connecting these actions to "doing good things" during Lent.
- Discuss Lent Simply: Talk about Lent as a special time to become better people, emphasizing love, prayer, and helping others.
- Create a "Desert" Space: Set up a small, simple space at home with purple cloths to represent the reflective, quiet time of Lent.
- Prepare for Easter Joy: Discuss the transition from the "desert" (simplicity/fasting) to the "garden" (new life/Easter celebration) by planting seeds or making an Easter garden.
- Practice Saying Sorry: Discuss forgiveness and the importance of saying sorry to friends and family to build positive relationships.
- Engage in Simple Prayer: Encourage short, daily prayers and talk about God's love for them.

### **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, 3 and 4 sounds and diagraphs. 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.

