

Welcome to Year 2

Gentleness Class!

Ms Smith (Class Teacher) and Mrs Rogers (TA)

Welcome back to block 3 of Yr 2 in Gentleness class! We are so proud of all your hard work, enthusiasm and love of learning which we see you bring to class each and every day! We can't wait to keep exploring new topics with you as we enter this new block and continue to **STRIVE** towards learning new things and towards becoming the people God wants us to be.

Our name has been inspired by our **STRIVE** curriculum, and this year we will be focusing on the key Catholic value of gentleness. We will be making sure we are gentle in our words and our actions, as Jesus showed us through his gentleness and kindness towards those who were vulnerable or sick. Through gentleness we will listen to and support each other throughout the year.

STRIVE

At St Simon's we use the acronym **STRIVE** to show the qualities that every child at St Simon's should aim to have. This year we will be looking at developing being **valued** in all areas of our learning. Children who demonstrate this will have the opportunity to win our **STRIVE** award!

Spiritual	Trusted	Resilient	Inquisitive	Valued	Exceptional
* Have good manners and be courteous * Be considerate of others	* Use and look after equipment responsibly * Begin to work independently * Make my own decisions	* Keep trying when things are hard * Have pride in my work, making it	* Ask questions about my learning * Think about what I've learnt before and	* Listen to what others have to say * Respect what adults ask me to do * Appreciate that	* Listen to what others have to say * Respect what adults ask me to do * Understand that we each have our

* Show God's love in our actions	to help me learn (without relying on the teacher)	the best it can be * Share my ideas confidently	how this can help * Understand that to try new things is to be inquisitive	everybody has strengths in different areas	own talents and skills
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What did we learn in Block 2?

In History we learnt all about the British Monarchy and enjoyed exploring the Battle of Hastings. We compared Queen Elizabeth the I to Queen Victoria and considered how the power of kings and queens has changed over time. We explore the current monarchy and their roles within our society.

In Science we explored healthy eating, how to stay fit and healthy and looked at what animals need to survive.

In English we have loved exploring 'Grandad's Island' a heartfelt story and the 'Bog Baby', both have inspired us to write circular and return narratives.

What we will be learning

During this block of learning, we are going to be investigating the question:

How is the UK different? How is it the same?

We will access this through the themes of adversity, strength and resilience.

We will explore the physical and human characteristics of Kenya, delving deeper into our previous study of the continents. We will be comparing this to our own locality and learning all about

Kenyan traditions. We will be learning all about habitats – with a particular focus on outdoor learning.

In English we will be exploring 'The King Who Banned the Dark' and 'Rosie Revere, Engineer', learning new vocabulary, practising key speaking and listening skills, and helping us to 'immerse', 'Analyse', 'Plan' and 'Write'.

In Maths, we will begin to explore Length, Height, Mass, and Capacity as well as Temperature, Fractions and Time.

Key concepts: Literacy-exploring narratives, instructions, poetry, PE- dance & net and wall games, Science- habitats, classifying, sorting, identifying. Computing- spreadsheets, Art- collage and sketching, Music, shared singing, PSHE & RSE- created to love others, keeping safe, life online. RE -Desert to Garden. Maths- Length, Height, Mass, Capacity, Temperature, Fractions and Time.

Alongside these subjects, we will continue to live out our school values by:

- Showing good manners, kindness, and respect
- Acting responsibly and looking after equipment
- Working independently and making decisions that support our learning
- Persevering with challenges and taking pride in our work
- Asking questions, sharing ideas, and applying prior learning
- Recognising and celebrating everyone's different strengths
- Being ready to learn and modelling positive behaviour across school

Homework

Supporting your child with their home learning is vital to build self-confidence and further consolidate and embed their learning. Please feel free to contact me if you require clarity or support on any of the homework provided.

In Year 2, the children have 3 different homework activities each week:

1) Maths Journal- set every Friday due in the following Wednesday

The children will be directed to a page in their Maths Journal to complete – this will be linked to their work that they have been completing in school that week.

2) Reading – online- set every Friday-due the following Friday

* Children will use Reading Eggs.

* A comprehension lesson will be set on a Friday and will be due the following Friday.



3) Spelling – spelling homework books- set every Friday, tests will be the following Friday.

* Children will receive spellings to practise each week.

* Children need to pick 1 activity from the spelling activities list inside the front cover of their spelling homework book and complete.



Reading

Reading is the key to academic success! As well as immersing children into different imaginative worlds, it enriches their vocabulary and comprehension skills! Reading every day will ensure your child make progress- I'd suggest for a minimum of 10 minutes every day.

Children will have 2 books (3 if they are continuing on phonics decodable texts). These will be changed on a Friday (please message if you feel your child needs one earlier in the week):

-1. Shared reader – These books are for you to share with your child to encourage them to apply their phonics and comprehension skills. These books are changed every Friday – depending on the child's understanding of the text and align with the way we assess our children's reading progress. The more you read these books at home, the more progress your child will make across the curriculum!

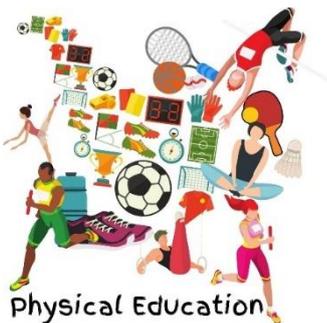
- 2. Library book- each week your child will be taken to our school library to select a book to read for pleasure in our mission to foster a love of reading amongst our learners.

Some children may also bring home a third book (decodable reader) if they are still securing their phonics:

- 3. Decodable reader – These books are to practise specific phonic sounds and form part of phonics 'catch up' interventions.

Please ensure your child's reading packet (with their decodable reader, shared reader and reading record) is in school 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 that it can 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. They need to be able to confidently answer a range of questions such as: 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 and we focus on other areas too.



PE

PE will take place every **Tuesday and Thursday** **this term.**

On these days, please ensure your child comes to school wearing their **outdoor PE kit and trainers (navy joggers/leggings, a light blue polo top and their school jumper or cardigan with trainers)** as we will aim to be outside whenever the weather is suitable. This term, we will be focusing on dance as well as net and wall games.

Forest school

There will be no Forest School this term.

Class Dojo

We use **Class Dojo** to celebrate and promote our school values through **STRIVE**. Children earn positive points for demonstrating these key skills, and it also provides an easy way for you to get in touch with me if you have any questions. Please make sure you are signed up so that we can share your child's learning journey with you.



Upcoming Events

- **Class Liturgy - Thursday, 26th February 3pm will be Y2's Celebration of the Word**
- **Friday, 27th February St David's House wear yellow to school**
 - **Friday, 6th March World Book Day Celebration**
- **Tuesday, 10th March School photographer in (classes and teams)**
- **Wed, 11th March 8.30 – 11am School Nurse drop in session**
- **Tuesday, 17th March St Patrick's House wear green to school**
- **Saturday, 21st March Stockport Harriers School Cross country presentation day**
- **Thursday, 26th March 3.45 -7pm Parent/teacher meetings (face to face)**
- **Thursday, 2nd April 3.30pm School closes for the Easter holidays.**

Please check the school website for other dates and events.

Clothing and snacks: please ensure your child brings a waterproof coat to school as the weather becomes colder and wetter. If you would like to send your child to school with a snack, please ensure this is a piece of fruit.

Contact: If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via Class Dojo, or at the end of the day on the playground. A telephone call or in-person meeting can also be arranged if required.

Follow us on X @StSimonsSch and our PTA have a Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/St-Simons-Catholic-Primary-School-PTA-649590165143369/>

We really appreciate all your continued help and fantastic support this block. We can see all the hard work you do at home through the great progress your children have already made. Thank you for helping to bring our catholic STRIVE values to life and being a part of our St Simon's community.

Best wishes

Ms Smith and Mrs Rogers

