



St Simon's Nursery Love Class 2025-2026



A warm welcome to the next block of learning in nursery. We cannot believe we have reached the final block of the school year already! We are very excited to adventure into a world of stories and rhymes for our final 10 weeks. We will be taking part in lots of story/rhyme-themed activities.

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 your 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 Maths, Literacy, Phonics, RE 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>

Class Dojo

This is a two-way communication tool, where we can send messages and photos to update you with any key dates or information. Please feel free to contact me if I can help with anything or if you have any questions.



Our Team

Class Teacher
Mrs Clarke

Teaching Assistant
Mrs Precieux



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

- Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday
- Thursday 7th May-Polling Day (school closed to pupils)
- Friday 8th May- Fun Friday
- Friday 22nd May - School closes for half-term
- Monday 8th June - School re-opens
- Friday 12th June-Talent Show
- Wednesday 17th June-Father Day Sale (PTA)
- Wednesday, 17th June – School nurse drop in session 8.30 – 11am
- Friday 20th June-Nursery Assembly 2.45pm
- Wednesday 24th June-New Intake Meeting 6pm
- Thursday 2nd July- EYFS Celebration of the Word 3pm
- Monday 6th July - Reports emailed to parents
- Friday 17th July - School closes for summer holiday

The weekly newsletter and Class Dojo will also keep you up to date with events.

General Information

- Please make sure to label your child's clothing.
- Please keep some spare underwear and clothing in your child's bag. We are very busy in Nursery and can sometimes get a little messy or have accidents.
- We will be enjoying Forest School sessions on a Wednesday. Children need to wear clothing with arms and legs covered and a sun hat and sun cream applied.

Our theme for block 3 was:

How do living things change?

During block 3 we learnt about different kinds of animals and their environments/habitats. We knew that children were very excited about all kinds of animals which provided us with an excellent catalyst to drive learning and spark engagement, creativity and enthusiasm in class. We looked at the different types of animals, farm, zoo, pets, mini-beasts, dinosaurs, polar animals and animals that live in the sea etc. We have looked at some life cycles and animals and their babies.

We enjoyed our Animal Magic morning, seeing lots of different animals, touching them and being inquisitive about them. In our PE session we have been focusing on dance, we explored space and how to use it safely. We then copied, repeated and remembered some actions and put them to music. In RE we have talked about Lent by getting ready for Easter, then focussed on Easter and what happened to Jesus during Holy Week.

Our **key concept** was **Happiness** we have learnt how we can make others happy and how we can share our happiness with others.

Our theme this block is: **What's the rhyme/story?**

Over the next ten weeks,

We have based our block on key rhymes and stories, we will use these rhymes and stories to inspire our imagination to retell, act out and write. In RE we will be learning about Pentecost and the Ascension and about the growth of the Church and its relationship with the wider world.

For more information please see our Long-Term plan on the website.

https://www.st-simons.stockport.sch.uk/_site/data/files/documents/5C0FA8A7A84D440F42DDD197A48643C6.pdf

Our **key concept** this block is: **Change** and how do we prepare for change?

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 **inquisitive**, **valued** and **exceptional**.

We are especially focussing on our **Valued** value along with the rest of the school.

Our class name is **Love** 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.



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



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 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



Religious Education

To the end of the Earth

This branch focuses on **Jesus' love continuing through the Holy Spirit** and how we are all part of God's family. **The Holy Spirit as a Friend:** Children are introduced to the Holy Spirit as a "special friend" sent by Jesus to guide and comfort them.

Pentecost Stories: They hear the story of Pentecost and learn that the early disciples shared Jesus' message with joy. **The Parish Church:** Pupils explore their local church as a welcoming space where friends gather to pray, sing, and celebrate together, especially on Sundays.

Dialogue and Encounter

Learning to Listen: The focus is on the "first principles of dialogue"—learning how to listen when others speak and showing respect for different beliefs. **Being a Good Neighbour:** Through stories and play, they explore what it means to be a "good neighbour" and how to live peaceably with others who hold different views.



Communication and Language

During Block 4 children will be encouraged to join in with repeated refrains and anticipate key events and phrases in rhymes and stories. We will do this on a 1:1, in a small group and as a whole class. They will begin to understand 'why' and 'how' questions linked to stories they hear. They will extend vocabulary, especially by grouping and naming, exploring the meaning and sounds of new words. Children will continue to develop their phonological awareness using Phase 1 and Phase 2 Phonics, they will listen to and clap syllables in words, listen for initial sounds in words have an awareness of rhyme and alliteration. They will be encouraged to give meaning to marks as they draw and paint and ascribe meanings to marks that they see in different places. They will copy some letters from their name. Children will begin to make stories using Tales Toolkit.



What you can do to help:

- Ask your child what they have been doing at Nursery - use Dojo photos to prompt discussion
- Chat to them at home to encourage listening skills
- Encourage them to ask questions and to use questioning words
- Encourage them to predict what might happen next when sharing stories
- Encourage your child to verbalise when they need help
- Encourage them to draw and attempt to write their names or letters in their name
- Play games where you give them an instruction like "Can you j-u-m-p?" or "Can you h-o-p?" and they have to put the sounds of the word together and show you the action.
- Make up silly rhymes where you use words that begin with the same letter or the words all rhyme, like "cat", "bat" and "hat".

Physical Development

Children will develop their abilities to self-care including toileting and getting dressed/ undressed. They will take part in a wide range of activities to encourage the development of their gross motor and fine motor skills. They will move freely and with pleasure and confidence in a range of ways, such as slithering, shuffling, rolling, crawling, walking, running, jumping, skipping, sliding and hopping. 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 continue to show some understanding that good practices regarding exercise, eating, sleeping and hygiene can contribute to good health.

What you can do to help:

- Practise holding a pencil to draw lines and circles
- Encourage your child to draw pictures and colour
- Encourage your child to write their own name
- Practise running, jumping, skipping and climbing
- Encourage your child to use a knife and fork correctly
- Practise using scissors to cut dough, cooked spaghetti or paper



This block we have Forest School, this is on a Wednesday, alternating from the morning and the afternoon session. Children need to be appropriately dressed. You will have had an email for consent and with more details.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will develop confidence to talk to other children when playing and will communicate freely about their own home and community. In Nursery, we encourage the children to be independent and select resources and activities they would like to use. They will begin to accept the needs of others and can take turns and share resources, sometimes with support from others. Children will also begin to explain their own knowledge and understanding and ask appropriate questions of 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 get dressed and undressed independently
- Play games with your children, reinforcing turn taking.
- Talk to your child about what they are doing and how they are feeling.



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. In Phonics, we will be focusing on Phase 1. This involves exploring seven aspects of sounds including environmental, instrumental, body percussion, rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and oral blending/ segmenting. The older children heading to Reception in September will be learning sounds in Phase 2 Phonics. What you can do to help:

- Read with your child
 - Ask your child what sounds they can hear
 - Explore different sounds with your child when indoors/ outdoors
 - Encourage your child to spot letters and words and say the sound and blend letters to read for example c-a-t- cat
- Print is everywhere! Discuss this with your child.



Mathematics

Children will be learning to count and recognise numbers using a variety of counting principles, comparing quantities, and exploring 2D and 3D shapes.

What you can do to help:

- Recognise the numerals 1-10 and beyond
- Talk about colours and colour mixing
- Discuss the language of size e.g. big, small, medium-sized
- Use correct positional language e.g. on, under, on top, next to
- Encourage your child to count objects/ toys
- 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 Winter art. We will be creating with materials and learning how to be expressive and imaginative!

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
- Listen to music, sing and dance!
- Design and make using recycled materials (junk modelling)



Understanding the World

Children will be learning about the past and present, people, culture, communities and the natural world. We will also be learning about the weather, seasons and ICT.

What you can do to help:

- Speak to your child about your family history and when they were a baby
- Talk about your family and where you live
- Discuss how to look after their body and keep it clean
- Speak about nature and natural resources



We are all really looking forward to the rest of this year and I hope your children enjoy all the exciting things we have in store. If you have any queries at all, please feel free to speak to me after school, or drop me a message on Class Dojo.

Kind Regards,
Mrs Clarke