



Welcome to Year 2
Maria Montessori Class



Mrs Oates (Class Teacher)

Mrs Stewart (Teaching Assistant)

A warm welcome back to Y2! We are so excited to continue our learning this term and we have lots of exciting things in store!

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 that we can be!

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

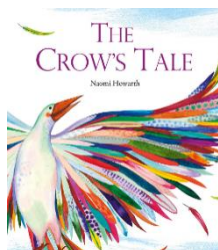
What will be learning in this block?

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 **responsibility** and **trust**.

As a class, 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 the Kenyan traditions.



In English, we will focus on how to write an effective narrative based upon the story *The Crow's Tale* by Naomi Howarth and a non-chronological report about big cats. Finally, we will finish the block being able to innovate a poem using 'If I were in charge of the world' (by Judith Viorst) as our foundation.



Continuing with our love for animals, we will study animals and survival in science which focuses on the three basic needs for survival including food, water and air. With cross curricular links to Art, the children will begin to draw and collage animals inspired by the work of Megan Coyle.



Homework

Supporting your child at home will enhance their academic progress, confidence and consolidate what they have been learning at school. We would really appreciate your support with this, as we understand that it can be challenging. Should you need support with accessing any of the below, I am always available to answer any queries.

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**.

2) Reading Eggs

A comprehension lesson 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 **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 are for you to share with your child to encourage them to apply their phonics and comprehension skills. These 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 will enjoy Forest School on a **Wednesday morning** and Dance on a **Thursday**. On these days, children will be expected to attend school in their outdoor PE kit, which consists of navy-blue jogging bottoms, a pale blue polo shirt and their normal school jumper/cardigan.

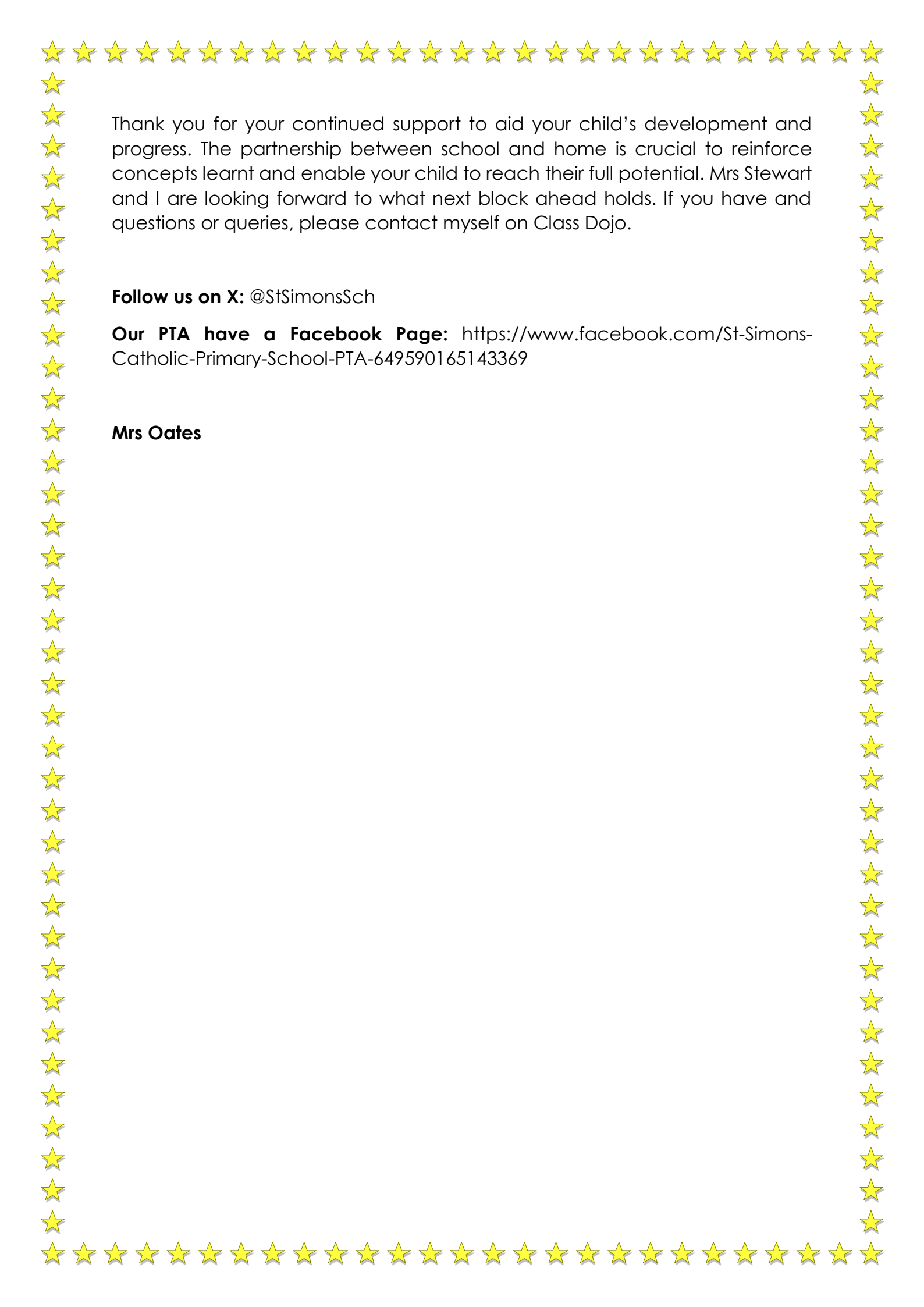


Please note, your child will be required to wear their outdoor PE kit for Forest School with the weather getting colder. Additional layers including hats, gloves and scarfs are highly recommended as well as, waterproofs and suitable outdoor footwear. This is so your child can be fully emersed with all activities that the Forest School leader has to offer.

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 so that I can share your child's learning with you, throughout the block.





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 Stewart and I are looking forward to what next block ahead holds. If you have any questions or queries, please contact myself on Class Dojo.

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

Mrs Oates