

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 'I'm Going on a Journey' – Down the Rabbit Hole!

Over the next 10 weeks, Alice in Wonderland Class will be taking the next step on their learning adventure, they'll be going on an adventure 'Down the Rabbit Hole' and learning all about travel, journeys and modes of transport. We look forward to the adventures that await us. I'm sure we'll have lots of fun!

Our class name this year is **Alice in Wonderland Class.**



This year, we will STRIVE to be as Inquisitive as Alice and learn lots of new things!

Communication



I KNEW
WHO I WAS
THIS MORNING
BUT I'VE
CHANGED A
FEW TIMES SINCE
THEN.

Heather Herbert

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 **Thursday**. Please send your child to school wearing their P.E kit on a **Thursday** ready for our lesson.

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.

This year we will be focusing on being spiritual, trusted and resilient. We will be **Alice in Wonderland Class**. We are named after Alice from the famous children's book, who takes on a wild adventure and learns all about herself as she journeys down the rabbit hole to Wonderland. This year all of our classes are named after '**Inquisitive**' role models. We will learn about Alice and other inquisitive role models throughout the year.

Homework

Reading

Please read with your child each night 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**.



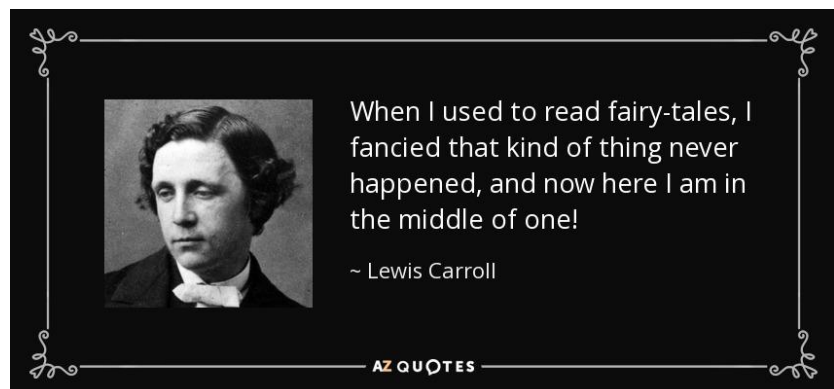
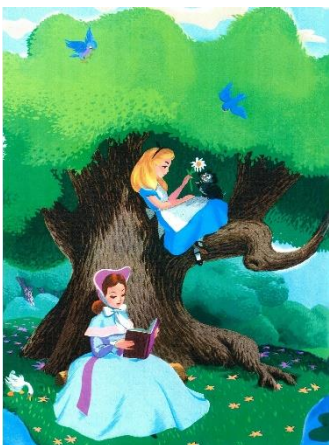
Maths

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

Foundation Stage Liturgy – 28th November 2024 – This will take place at 3pm in the Reception Classroom.

Nativity Play! – You are all welcome to join us to get into the festive spirit for the EYFS Nativity play. This is scheduled to take place on the 10th December at 1.45pm and 12th December 9.45am.



We will be doing PE every **Thursday**. The children will need to make sure they come into school in their PE kits on these days.

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.



“The best gift you can give, is a lifetime of adventures!” – Lewis Carroll

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

Religious Education:

God's Family

Children will know that family is a special gift from God. They will hear that Jesus is God's son. Children will hear the story of Christmas. They will hear that the angel Gabriel came to visit Mary with good news. They will know that Mary is Jesus' mother and how we celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas.

What you can do to help:

- Talk to the children about your family/ what activities you like to do together
- Thank God for our families, in your prayers
- Talk about the Nativity



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 sounds. 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.

