

Welcome to Year 2

Maria Montessori Class

Miss Williams (Class Teacher)

Mrs Stewart (Teaching Assistant)

Hello and welcome back! We have a fantastic year in store, with lots of learning, growing, exploring, and discovering ahead of us! This year our class names will be inspired by **Inquisitive** individuals, which will underpin our **STRIVE** curriculum, as we aspire to the very best version of ourselves that we can be! We will be exploring the impact that Maria Montessori's curiosity surrounding how children learn impacted education – using her philosophies to inspire many of our active and playful learning activities this 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 the children developing their inquisitiveness in all aspects of school life. Children who show aspects of this 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 we be learning?

During this block, the children will continue with our ELS phonics programme - moving onto the ELS Spelling Rules. Our writing lessons will be inspired by the books, 'The Day The Crayons Quit' and 'Under The Great Plum Tree', immersing the children in lots of drama, new vocabulary and language rich opportunities to promote their speaking and listening skills.

In Maths, learners will continue to expand and secure their understanding of place value, including addition and subtraction. We will be working hard to consolidate number bonds and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. You can help your

child to secure this by accessing TT Rockstars with them regularly – this will really help them to shine during Maths lessons!

During this block of learning, we are going to be investigating the question,
What Do We Know About Planet Earth?

We will access this through the themes of **belonging and diversity**.

We will be developing our knowledge of the 7 continents and 5 oceans. We will be exploring world maps, atlases and globes to ignite our curiosity of our planet – as well as using this as an opportunity to learn about a diverse range of cultures and traditions.



Supporting your child at home will enhance their academic progress, confidence and consolidate what they have been learning at school. We 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 have **3** different homework activities each week:

1) Maths Journal

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

* 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

* 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 it.

* Spellings are given out on a **Monday** and children will be tested on these words the following **Monday**.



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 makes progress- I'd suggest for a **minimum of 10 minutes** every day.

THE MILLION WORD GAP

New research shows the different numbers of words kids will have heard by age 5 based on how often parents read to them:

- Never read to: 4,662 words
- 1-2 times per week: 63,570 words
- 3-5 times per week: 169,520 words
- Daily: 296,660 words
- Five books a day: 1,483,300 words



Children will have 2 books:

- **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 – 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!
- **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 phonics:

- **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



We will be doing PE every **Monday** and **Thursday**. The children will need to make sure they come into school in their PE kits on these days. Please ensure children come in outdoor PE kits as we will try to be outside as much as possible. This block, the children will enjoy yoga, target games and fundamental ball skill sessions.

Class Dojo

The school uses Class Dojo as a way to promote **STRIVE** as well as being an opportunity for you to contact me about any query you may have. Your child will receive positive points on this site for displaying the key skills within **STRIVE**. Please make sure you have signed up so that we can share all our learning with you.



Parents and carers are welcomed to join us on **Thursday 10th October** at 3pm for our Class Liturgy with Father Peter and **Friday 11th October** at 2.45pm for our Class Assembly in the Hall.

Should you need to get in touch with me, I am always available on the playground at the end of the school day. Alternatively, you can send me a direct message on Class Dojo and I will schedule a call or arrange a time to meet with you.