

Welcome to St Simon's Nursery 2023-2024



Routine

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

We use an app called Class Dojo which you have all been invited to join. 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.



Meet the Team

Class Teacher
Mrs Clarke

HLTA
Mrs McNally

Teaching Assistants
Miss Pickford
Mrs Stewart



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

30/11/23 - Nursery and Reception Liturgy (15.00)
01/12/23 - Blessing of the Advent wreath (14.45)
08/12/23 - Save the Children Christmas jumper day
12/12/23 - Nativity play PM
14/12/23 - Nativity plays AM
21/12/23 - Christmas dinner and class parties
22/12/23 - Carols and coffee
22/12/23 -Pantomime
22/12/22 - School closes for all children (15.30)

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 normally do PE in the school hall on Wednesdays, please ensure children come into school in appropriate clothing.

Our theme for block 1 was-

Who am I?

We have had a great first block where we have been learning all about ourselves including what we look like and what we can do, where we live, who is in our family and how we can care for one another. We have talked about our emotions and how they make us feel. In RE we celebrated how God made each of us unique and what makes us special, we thanked God for making us and our families.

Our theme this block is:

Where are we in the World?

Over the next ten weeks, we will be learning all the world, where we live, how we can travel, looking at different journeys and destinations. Please talk to your children about where we live and different places you have been or are going. We have based our block on these **key questions**:

- Where do I live?
- Where in the British Isles are we?
- Where in the World are we?
- What's out there?
- How can we take care of our environment?

And these **key concepts**:

Community
Responsibility
Identity

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 **spiritual**, **trusted** and **resilient**.

We are especially focussing on our **resilient** value. Our class name is **Teresa**, named after Mother Teresa.

A true hero is an individual who exhibits motivation and resilience to help others, all while remaining a humble and compassionate person. We will be learning more about Mother Teresa throughout the year.

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 new 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



Communication and Language

Children will be continuing to develop their speaking and listening skills. The children will continue to build friendships, where adults will encourage them to talk to each other using good listening skills. We will also begin to use prepositions such as 'under', 'on top' and 'behind' by carrying out an action or selecting correct picture. They will join in with repeated refrains, anticipate key events, phrases in rhymes and stories. Children will use talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and recall and relive past experiences. Children will continue to develop their phonological awareness using letters and sounds phase 1. The children will listen to stories with increasing attention and recall and talk about what they think will happen next. 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.



What you can do to help:

- Ask your child what they have been doing at Nursery
- Chat to them at home to encourage listening skills
- Encourage them to ask questions and use question words
- Encourage them to predict what might happen next when sharing stories
- Encourage your child to verbalise when they need help

Physical Development

Children will develop their abilities to self-care including toileting and getting dressed and undressed. They will take part in a wide range of activities to encourage the development of their gross motor and fine motor skills. 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 practice writing, drawing and colouring. Children will begin to show some understanding that good practices regarding exercise, eating, sleeping and hygiene can contribute to good health.

What you can do to help:

- Practice holding a pencil to draw lines and circles
- Encourage your child to draw pictures and colour
- Encourage your child to write their own name
- Practice running, jumping, skipping and climbing
- Encourage your child to use a knife and fork properly



PE is on a Wednesday, Children need to come into school in appropriate PE kit on these days.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will develop the friendships they have already formed by offering cues to peers to join them and by keeping play going by responding to what others are saying or doing. 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.

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



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 of Letters and Sounds. This involves exploring seven aspects of sounds including environmental, instrumental, body percussion, rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and oral blending/ segmenting.

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

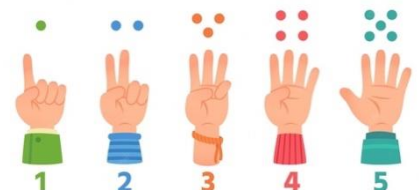


Mathematics

Children will be learning to count and recognise numbers to 5, number composition and beginning to count to 10 and beyond. Children will also be learning about colours, sorting, patterns, size and basic counting principles. We are following the Mastering the Curriculum Scheme.

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



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



Religious Education: My Family/ The Holy Family

Children will know that they are special within their family and that God gives us a family to look after us. They will hear that Jesus is God the Father'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

