

Block 4



St Simon's Nursery Teresa Class 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>

Meet the Team

Class Teacher

Mrs Clarke

HLTA Mrs McNally

Teaching Assistants

Miss Pickford

Mrs Stewart

Mrs Rostron

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 6th May - Bank Holiday

Thursday 23rd May - EYFS Liturgy

Friday 24th May - Whole school talent show

Friday 24th May - School closes for half-term

Monday 10th June - School re-opens

Monday 9th July - Reports emailed to parents

Friday 12th July - Nursery Assembly

Tuesday 23rd July - School closes for summer holiday

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

Class Dojo

We use an app called 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.



ClassDojo

General Information

- Please label your child's clothing/ belongings
- Please put fresh water in your child's water bottle each day.

- We normally do PE in the school hall on Wednesday please ensure children come to school in their PE kits. As the weather is getting warmer, we may also do our PE sessions outside. If wearing shorts, please send a spare pair of joggers on PE days as the weather can be uncertain!
- Please keep some spare underwear and clothing in your child's bag. We are very busy in Nursery and the children can sometimes get a little messy or have accidents.

Block 3 Review

We have enjoyed our learning during Block 3 focussed upon this question - **How do living things change?** We have learned about lots of different animals, particularly enjoying farm and zoo animals and dinosaurs. With this Block culminating in our trip to Reddish Vale Farm. In RE, we enjoyed learning about Jesus' life on Earth and how Easter is a special time where Jesus rose again on Easter Sunday. We have looked at Mother Teresa and talked about what makes her so special.

Our theme for Block 4 is:

What's The Story?

Over the next ten weeks, we will be going on an adventure to explore the world of books, where we will be focusing on nursery rhymes and traditional tales. The children will hear and join in with these and have the opportunity to develop their imagination and confidence with small world and role play experiences. We will begin to use our phonic knowledge to write letters and will sequence and retell the stories. We are always developing our fine and motor skills, so will be focusing on pencil grip and mark making/ writing. The children already love stories of all kinds, so we are excited to introduce them to some special stories and traditional tales!

For this block our key concepts are:

Friendship
Care
Creativity

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**.

Our class name is **Teresa**.

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

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 parent/ teacher meetings. Parents are encouraged to contribute home events and activities to their child's Dojo page.



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

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.

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 use question 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 me 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 we 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 including. 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 practice 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:

- 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 correctly
- Practice using scissors to cut dough, cooked spaghetti or paper



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

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 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. The older children heading to Reception in September will be starting to learn the first set of 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
- Print is everywhere! Discuss this with your child.

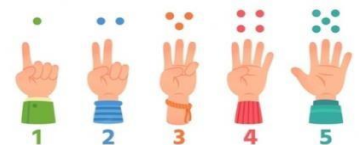


Mathematics

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



Religious Education: Good Friends/ New Life

New Life

Children will begin to understand that we celebrate Easter because Jesus rose from the dead. They will be aware that at Easter we celebrate Jesus is with us.

What you can do to help:

- Talk about Good News, how this can excite us and make us happy
- Pray with your child before going to bed. Suggest they thank Jesus for all the people who have helped them during the day and to say sorry for anything they may have done wrong.



Our Church Family

Children will know that we all belong to God's family and that we belong to our Church family. Children will know that we have a parish church, St Peter's.

What you can do to help:

- Talk about Sunday being a special day, learn days of the week song YouTube to the tune of the Addams Family.
- Visit a church, talk about the altar, the candles, statues etc.

