SSSJ School Newsletter

21st November 2025

'I can do all things through him who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13

Our Values:

Respect, Hope, Compassion, Service, Justice, Perseverance

Our Vision: We strive to build a community which nurtures positive relationships that permeate through all aspects of life. A community where barriers do not define us, but instead offer opportunity for growth. No matter our background, through our faith, we will find the strength and courage to flourish as citizens of the future.

Our Mission: Empowering individuals to flourish together in the image of God.

The focus this half term is: Compassion

Year 5 - Moses Gate

As part of our geography curriculum, we are excited to be taking the children on a local fieldwork trip to Moses Gate Country Park. Please refer to the class dates listed below.

5A - Thursday 27th November
5B - Tuesday 25th November
5C - Monday 1st December

Please ensure you have filled in the online form which has already been sent to parents.

Reception & Year 1 Panto Trips

Please ensure you have filled in the online consent form which has been to parents. All payments for upcoming trips will need to be paid via the Arbor App.

Year 1 - 4th December
Reception - 5th December



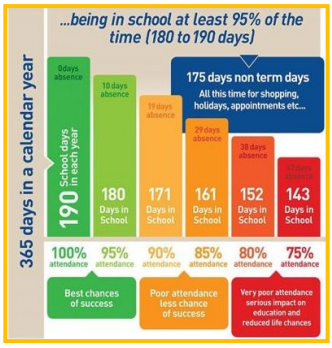


On Thursday 11th December all the children are going to take part in a Reindeer Run and can come to school wearing festive clothing. **All we ask for is that each child makes a £1.00 donation via Arbor to support Bolton Hospice.** Sponsor forms will also be available for children who would like to raise more.

Please ensure your child attends school everyday. The term dates for this academic year are detailed on the school website under the parent tab.
Term Dates - SS Simon & Jude CE Primary School

Attendance

At SSSJ, we monitor attendance on a daily and weekly basis. We also speak to our pupils about attendance and punctuality as part of our learning review system. The table below details how we colour code attendance at SSSJ. We have also started to track the number of pupils in each class with 100% attendance on a weekly basis.



Classes	Attendance
Reception A	94%
Reception B	92%
Year 1A	91%
Year 1B	94%
Year 1C	95%
Year 2A	94%
Year 2B	94%
Year 3A	94%
Year 3B	93%
Year 4A	93%
Year 4B	95%
Year 5A	96%
Year 5B	96%
Year 5C	94%
Year 6A	98%
Year 6B	94%
Year 6C	96%





Today, LJ brought in a brilliant trophy that he won from his new football team, where he got player of the match. What a super achievement, you must have made a brilliant impression LJ! Keep up this hard work LJ and we hope you will be competing for school soon! We love seeing all of our pupils achievements outside school, so keep bringing in those awards everyone!

Determination Festival

Last week, A number of Year 5 students had an amazing time at the Determination Festival at Howe Bridge Leisure Centre. They took part in a number of exciting challenges — from rock climbing and scooting to archery, axe-throwing, and guided meditation. Throughout the day, they showed real resilience, especially when facing the heights during climbing, and supported one another with kindness and encouragement. By working together and pushing themselves, the children developed their confidence, compassion, and determination. It was an inspiring and memorable experience for everyone involved!







We would like to say a very special well done to our class dojo winners for this week.

Pupils who achieve the class dojo award have received the most dojo points throughout the week for showcasing our different values. These pupils are the perfect role models for other pupils s and as a reward are able to come to school in their own clothes on **Wednesday 26th November.**

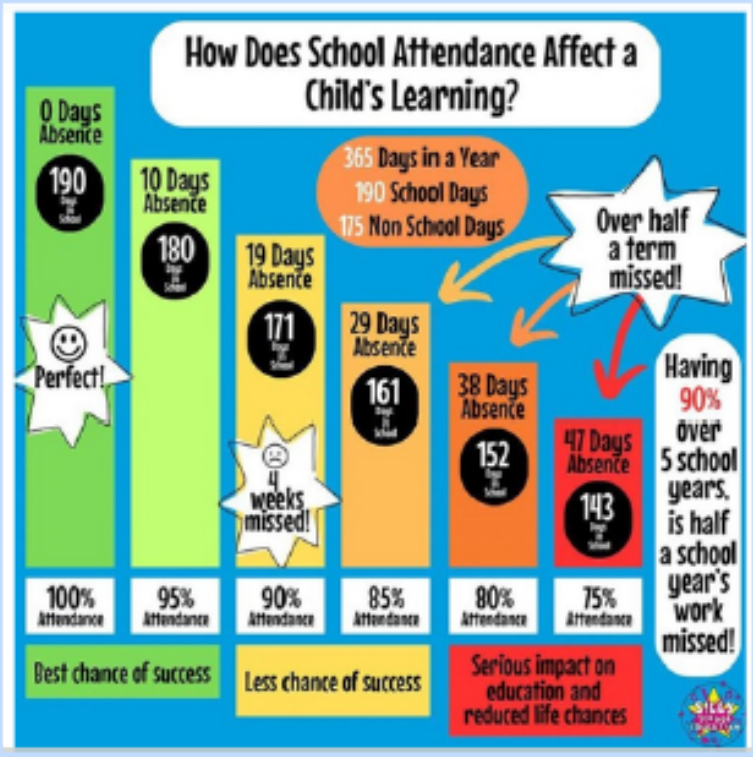
Nursery - Hareem & Hoorain	**Reception** - Umme-Hany & Khalid
Year 1 - Azan, Abdimajid & Ada	**Year 2** - Iris & Elsie
Year 3 - Codie & Ayaana	**Year 4** - Ahad & Francesca
Year 5 - Najafali, Asma & Khadijah K	**Year 6** - Camisha, Mariyah & Zunaira

Spotlight on Attendance

Attendance Matters

Reliable attendance in primary school is essential for children's learning, wellbeing, and social development. Each school day is divided into two sessions; morning and afternoon. Children are expected to attend both to make the most of their education. Missing even one session can disrupt learning routines and make it harder for pupils to keep up. To address growing concerns about absence, the government has introduced a renewed drive to improve school attendance, working with schools and families to reduce avoidable absences and ensure every child has the best possible start.

Understanding absence: If your child is absent from school, their absence will be recorded as either authorised or unauthorised depending on the reason provided. Clear communication with the school helps ensure that absences are recorded correctly and that your child's attendance remains on track.



Authorised absences are those that the school accepts as having a valid and unavoidable reason. When an absence is authorised, the school records it using specific attendance codes to show why the pupil could not attend. Common authorised absence codes include: **I - Illness, M - Medical, C - Compassionate**

Unauthorised absences are recorded when a pupil is absent without a reason that the school can accept. This means the school has either not been given a reason, or the explanation provided does not meet the criteria for authorisation. Unauthorised absences use specific codes, including: **O - Unauthorised absence, U - Late after register closes, G - Unauthorised extended leave**

Any absence, whether authorised or unauthorised, affects a child's attendance and their overall progress. Each missed session reduces their attendance percentage and can make it harder for children to keep up with new learning. Lessons in primary school move quickly, and teachers do not repeat sessions for individual pupils, meaning that key concepts, skills, or practice opportunities may be missed. Absence can also impact social development; children may feel less confident, miss out on friendships, group work, and important routines that help them feel part of the class community. Even when an absence is unavoidable and authorised, it still interrupts learning, which is why strong attendance is so important for every child's success.



Persistently Absent: A child is considered persistently absent when they miss 10% or more of school sessions, whether the absences are authorised or unauthorised. The school and local authority monitor persistent absence closely and will work with families to improve attendance and support the child's progress.



Severely Absent: A child is considered severely absent when they miss 50% or more of school sessions in a given period. This level of absence has a very serious impact on learning, as the child is missing half of their lessons, making it extremely difficult to keep up with the curriculum. Severe absence usually triggers immediate support from the school and local authorities to address the barriers to attendance and help the child re-engage with their education.

Attendance Process

To support parents in removing barriers to attendance, we follow a staged process

- Update Letter – Highlights attendance concerns with a clear target for improvement.
- Stage 1: Concern Letter – Formal notification of low attendance with a telephone discussion linked to any barriers.
- Stage 2: Attendance Meeting – Discuss barriers face to face and agree on an improvement plan.
- Stage 3: Notice to Improve / Penalty Notice – If attendance does not improve, a formal notice or penalty notice may be issued.

Christmas Performance dates

Friday 12th December

Nursery Christmas Performance at 11.00am (am children) & 2:30pm (pm children)

Monday 15th December

Year 1 Nativity at 9.15am and 2.30pm

Parents can only attend the performance at one of the times. The two separate performances will ensure that all parents are able to see their child perform.

Tuesday 16th December

Reception Performance at 9.15am

Wednesday 17th December

Year 2 Christmas Performance at 9.15am

We hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you!

For each performance we will send parents a forms link to complete. This must be completed if you want to watch the performance as we need to ensure parent numbers are recorded correctly due to the capacity within the hall.

