

## Messages from Donny

Dear Families, Friends and Students,

### Optimism is not just about being Positive:

With the cold winter days upon us, the end of term business, and the many life challenges that we are confronted with, it is understandable if we become overwhelmed. I strongly advocate for my staff to remain positive and optimistic. We try to apply many strategies and promote a 'positive mindset'. I have been using a program called Happy Schools, that has been created by Steve Francis who is an expert in school leadership and work-life satisfaction. He argues that positive thinking doesn't just mean that you keep your head in the sand and ignore life's less pleasant situations. Rather, positive thinking is more about approaching unpleasantness in a more encouraging and productive way. You think the best is going to happen, not the worst.

Positive thinking often starts with self-talk – the endless stream of unspoken thoughts that run through one's head. These automatic thoughts can be positive or negative. Some self-talk comes from logic and reason. Other self-talk may arise from misconceptions that one creates because of a lack of information. If the thoughts that run through your head are mostly negative, your outlook on life is more likely pessimistic. If your thoughts are mostly positive, you're likely an optimist – someone who practices positive thinking. Murphy's Law – 'Anything that can go wrong will go wrong', is the exact opposite of optimism.



Students have embraced the new game, Ga Ga Ball, at recess and lunch time.



We have embraced having the 'Lantern' visit our school on it's journey around our Diocese.

Evidence has shown, that many parents try to bolster their children's self-esteem by avoiding criticism and praising accomplishments, however small. Whilst trying to develop confidence and encourage a lifelong can-do attitude, this can hamper the child's resilience and ability to bounce back from setbacks. Wrapping children in cotton wool isn't helpful. It is important that we praise effort and persistence rather than just ability.

By encouraging hard work and persistence we develop a 'Growth Mindset'. With the right guidance, many of the attributes of optimism also can be learned. Dr Segerstrom endorses a form of cognitive behavioural therapy, 'act first and the right feelings will follow'. As she puts it in her book, 'fake it until you make it'. She wrote, "People can learn to be more optimistic by acting as if they were more optimistic."





## **ST. THERESE'S RENMARK**

Fr Hau 0401 367 337  
8582 1894

### **MASS TIMES**

23 June Sun 9.00am  
29 June Sat 6.30pm  
6 July Sat 6.30pm

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **June**

24 & 25 Year 4/5 camp  
28 9.30am Mass by 4/5PH  
28 Mid-Year Transition  
students visit

#### **July**

1 2.15pm Assembly by  
R/PH & R/SH classes

If you behave more optimistically, you will be likely to keep trying instead of giving up after an initial failure. You might succeed more than you expected. Even if the additional effort is not successful, it can serve as a positive learning experience, suggesting a different way to approach a similar problem the next time it is faced. It's important not to neglect the power of positive thinking.

Many researchers recommend taking a few minutes at the end of each day to write down three positives that happened throughout the day, ending the day on an upbeat note. This is a practice I find beneficial. I promote for you to do the same. I also advocate for this to happen with your child/ren – maybe at dinner time, or just before bed.

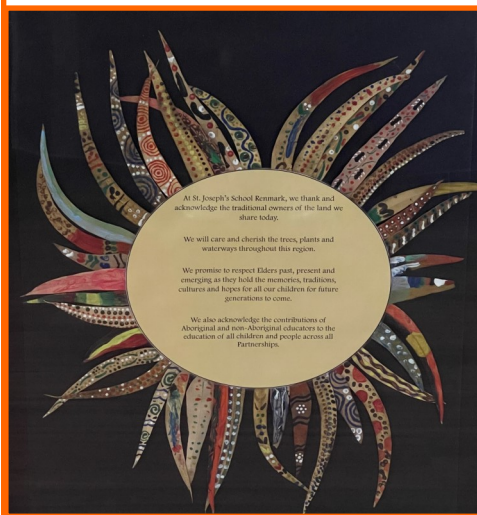
### **Reception to Year 2 Excursion:**

I wish to acknowledge and thank our Junior Primary Staff who supported our children on the recent Zoo Excursion. This was such a big day and the positive learning, social and emotional experiences was outstanding. I was so grateful to the many parents/careers who acknowledged the efforts of the staff and expressed their thanks and appreciation. It shows our wonderful community spirit when parent and staff show mutual respect for each other.



## **Acknowledgement:**

We acknowledge that St Joseph's School students, staff and community live, study and work on Erawirung Land. We acknowledge the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee as Traditional Custodians of the Riverland region and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We respect the deep connection Aboriginal people have with land, animals and waters.



### **End Of Semester Reports:**

I am truly privileged to be working with staff that are genuinely passionate, enthusiastic, hardworking, dedicated and exceptionally professional people, who generously give their time and expertise to ensure all students experience success. Staff have been very busy preparing for Semester One reports. This is a big process for students and teachers as we gather information together to record achievement for this part of the year.

Staff have been working with the management system of SEQTA in many areas of teaching and learning, including assessment and reporting. All Catholic Schools in South Australia use this system to generate Semester One Reports.

The Student Report will have similar components as previously used and will continue to follow a comprehensive format that assesses students' academic performance and development in all learning areas as well as key capabilities. The grading scale used is as follows:

A – Your child is demonstrating excellent achievement of what is expected at this year level.

B – Your child is demonstrating good achievement of what is expected at this year level.

C – Your child is demonstrating satisfactory achievement of what is expected at this year level.

D – Your child is demonstrating partial achievement of what is expected at this year level.

E – Your child is demonstrating minimal achievement of what is expected at this year level.

IE – Insufficient Evidence.

Reception students are not required to receive A to E grades. Instead, their achievement continues to be reported as: Working Towards Achievement Standard, Working At Achievement Standard, Working Beyond Achievement Standard.

The Report also evaluates students' development in general capabilities, which are important skills for overall student growth. The general capabilities assessed are: Critical and Creative Thinking, Digital Literacy, Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding, Literacy, Numeracy, and Personal and Social Capability.

Children with diverse learning needs will continue to be provided with learning opportunities that will allow them to experience success. Your child's report may include the following:

**HPC** (Highly Personalised Curriculum) indicates that your child has been taught a highly personalised curriculum for one or more subjects and has been assessed and reported against the Australian Curriculum General Capabilities learning expectation.

As a Catholic Education South Australia community, we believe that all students can learn and therefore, each student's individual learning pathway is supported and valued.

Reports will be issued at dismissal time, 12.30pm, on the last day of Term Two, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. If students are going to be absent on this day, their reports can be sent home with

provide. We then design a Personal Plan For Learning (PPL) and use this to monitor the progress of individual students. The Government requires us to record the support and adjustments we make for any student through a process called NCCD (Nationally Consistent Collection of Data) which provides the money and resourcing we need. This has been an excellent process that has highlighted the extensive work we do. I acknowledge our Inclusive Education Coordinator, Mrs Rachel McLeod who does an amazing job supporting all our teachers with this significant process.

### **School Board – Strategic Direction:**

The school board recently gathered to discuss, review and reflect.

The St Joseph's Board is a great support for our excellent teaching and learning programs and offer valuable advice, guidance and direction. We commend their dedication and commitment to our children as we have navigated through a variety of plans and initiatives. They are responsible for reviewing our Strategic Direction and how this will impact our future plans.

Discussions in recent times have focussed on our Master Plan. The Board members have joined with staff to offer feedback to Architects and CEO personal. This process looks at possible Capital Projects that will improve the learning outcomes for our students. Ongoing discussions include the expansion of our Administration Building, more Classrooms, the COLA and new designs for our entrance.



another family member, if written permission is given via Seesaw or the Reading and Learning Journal. Reports not collected will be distributed next term.

### **NCCD and Student Reports:**

As we prepare for Semester Reports, staff have been having numerous meetings with parents and discussing progress. We respect and value our diversity and have many students who receive support in many different ways. We record the modifications and adjustments that teachers make plus the extensive ESO support we

### **Mid-Year Intake:**

We warmly welcomed 9 new Reception students and 4 new families into our school today. Their first taste of school life was exciting, with a highlight being playing with their buddies. I acknowledge all of our staff, parents and students for their wonderful contributions to this successful start to their school journey.

### **Child Safety—Drop Off & Pick Up:**

We thank all Parents/Carers who are following the start and end of the day procedures when dropping off or picking up their children. The



morning routine is working well, with the 'Kiss and Drop', and our dismissal structure is working well with R-2 students meeting under the shelter. The safety and wellbeing of our children is a priority and we provide the following points:

- Please show patience and care when in the line of Kiss and Drop.
- Pull in when there is a space at the end of the line, and move up as far as possible in the designated area.
- Parents remain in the car whilst students get out – staff will be there to help if



In Week 10, we will continue to promote our Catholic Identity and positive school culture with a SRC Pyjama Day. We were excited to participate in this whole school event that will raise awareness for people who are marginalised, the poor, and the homeless. The overall message is to teach our children about positive attitudes of compassion, kindness, generosity and being charitable. We believe that these fun days help promote important life lessons in a meaningful and engaging way. I sincerely thank Mrs Thompson and the SRCs for their initiative, as well as all the staff, students and parents for their active and enthusiastic participation and



needed.

- When leaving the area please do not pull out in front of the car that is in front of you. Wait for your turn to move off.
- There is NO parking in the Kiss and Drop zone.
- Remember the speed limit when approaching the crossing—25km/hr (this should apply to all areas around the school).
- Staff supervision starts at 8.30am. Students should not arrive prior as there is no supervision for them.
- Cars should not stop at intersections or crossings to collect children.
- Please avoid parking in laneways and across residents' driveways.
- A phone call is appreciated if you are running late for collection at 3.15pm.
- Parents and caregivers are encouraged to park their vehicle and come to the collection points to collect their child/children.
- Use the 'flagged' road crossings at all times to cross the road appropriately.

#### **Student Free Day:**

We will start next term with the Monday being a student free day. On 22nd July staff will gather for professional learning. OHSC is available on this day. Please contact them to arrange a booking on 8586 4481.

#### **SRC Pyjama Day - Thinking of others less fortunate - show Gratitude & Appreciation:**

involvement.

#### **Ga Ga Game:**

This week I was so pleased to introduce a unique yard game called GA GA. This is a variant of dodgeball that is played in a gaga "pit". The game combines dodging, striking, running, and jumping, with the objective of being the last person standing. As I have mentioned many times before, I strongly endorse learning through play or sport, as your children can learn so many life skills. This game helps children learn strategic thinking, as well as develop improved control over their bodies through running, jumping, and changing directions. Moreover, the game does not discriminate against skill level or age. All students can participate in ga ga ball and work together as a team. The students loved the game and we are already seeing the benefits. I want to sincerely thank Mr Adrian Hunt for all his time, work, organisation and help getting the game at our school.

#### **Teaching and Learning/Positive Communication:**

At St Joseph's we are proud of the positive learning environment we are providing. We operate with positive actions and attitudes, and regularly promote all our successes and celebrations. We also understand that parents/carers may occasionally be faced with challenges and questions. We welcome feedback and encourage positive interaction and communication between staff and parents/carers. With all grievances or questions, we invite parents/carers to contact class teachers. With this overt approach, we welcome feedback



and encourage constructive points for future consideration. We discourage a covert approach to addressing questions as this may result in unproductive and ill-informed gossip that may damage relationships. Airing grievances on Social Media doesn't address the issues, but can cause things to be taken out of context. We will continue to make decisions based around current educational research. Everything we have done and will continue to do is based around learning, resulting in improving student outcomes for your child. St Joseph's School is committed to moving with society and striving to significantly improve student outcomes, underpinned by current and progressive research.

Some guidelines include:

- To read all notes carefully and return them by the due dates.
- To contact class teacher/s directly with any concerns or queries.
- To appreciate that engaging in gossip is non-productive and could result in further misunderstandings or queries.
- The sharing of grievances using social media is also inappropriate, hurtful and ill informed.

If you're not sure of something please contact the teacher/s directly.

### Staff News:

I wish to announce that Mrs Keisha Barber will be leaving our school at the end of this term. Keisha has won the counsellor position at Our Lady Of the River in Berri. She has valued her time at our school but has chosen to be closer to her family. I want to sincerely thank Keisha for all her amazing work and wish her all the best in her new role.

I welcome Robert Courtney to our team who will be in the Reception cohort as a Student Wellbeing support worker. We're excited for him to share with us his knowledge and expertise from his experience in supporting students.

### P&F Footy Tips:

The P&F Footy Tipping Competition is certainly very interesting at the halfway mark of the season. We appreciate this opportunity for collaboration, banter and fun. Good luck for the rest of the season.

**Don DePalma**  
Principal

## Star Student Awards:



Back: Isobel Karantonis, Kaylee Gordon, Eli Mackenzie, Annaliese Bartel, Patrick Luxton, Tyson Anspach.  
Front: Leo Cotsaris, Lucy Thorpe, Alice Abrey, Ella Tsui, Jaxon Pobke.



Back: Ava Skinner, Harper Wolf, Chloe McLeod, Jade Coombs, Isla Martinson, Hannah Keynes, Kianna Solly, Peter Atsaves.  
Front: Malakai McElroy, Bailey Yard, Christos Karantonis, Andy Nguyen.

## Champion Citizen Awards:



Congratulations to  
**Patrick Luxton, Lawson Dring, Mrs Pfeiffer**  
and the class of 1/2KC  
who were recently presented with our  
Champion Citizen Awards.

**Term 2 finishes on  
Friday 5th July**

**Dismissal at 12.30pm**

Please ensure prompt collection of your child/ren.

**Term 3 starts on  
Tuesday 23rd July**

**Monday is a Student Free Day due to  
Staff Professional Development.**

OSHC is available ~ Ring Nicole 8586 4481



# Religious Identity & Mission:

## Let Your Light Shine Diocesan Lantern:

Across the Port Pirie Diocese our schools and communities stand in solidarity to bring to life the Diocesan Theme for 2024; Let Your Light Shine, and in doing so embrace God's mission. As a symbol of our commitment the Diocesan Lantern will be welcomed into each of our 14 Catholic Schools during the 2024 school year. This week we welcomed the lantern to our school – you may have seen it in the front office. The Lantern will be moving about the school to different classes. Today we had a whole school liturgy where leaders in our community signed the register to show our connections to other Catholic Schools in the Port Pirie Diocese, and our common commitment during 2024 to be the salt of the earth and to bring light to the world. We have now bid farewell to the Lantern to continue its journey around our Diocese, we send with it our prayers and good wishes for the next school community.



## Mini Vinnies

Our Mini Vinnies executive committee visited the St Vincent de Paul shed on Monday morning to support the volunteers with the donations they have recently received. Over the next few weeks and into next term students from the Year 6 class will have the opportunity to experience supporting at the St Vincent de Paul shed as well.



## Mary Manning:

Next Tuesday and Wednesday we have Mary Manning, who is the Catholic Identity and Mission advisor for the Port Pirie Dioceses, visiting our school to work with teachers on their Religious Education planning - crafting units with assessment tasks which align with our scope and sequence. We look forward to her sharing her expertise with us.

## We CAN do it:

Our Mini Vinnies have joined with our SRC students to focus on how we CAN make a difference to the lives of others this winter. Please refer to the flyer attached to today's newsletter with ways you can support them.



## Our Lady of the River Catholic Parish:

I hope that students and their families can join in the 10th birthday celebrations of our Riverland Parish on Sunday 11th August. Please check the details on the flyer below, which has been previously distributed, to be a part of this wonderful celebration.

Chrissie Grocke  
APRIM

## Our Lady of the River Catholic Parish

is celebrating its

### 10th Inauguration Birthday

The Riverland Community is invited to join with the OLOR Parish Council and Bishop Karol Kulczycki SDB as we celebrate a whole parish Mass on Sunday 11th August, 2024 at St Mary's Church in Berri @ 11am

Luncheon will provided after Mass  
Please BYO drinks  
Tea and Coffee will be provided

Please RSVP by: Monday 29th July  
olor@pp.catholic.org.au  
or place your name on the attendance sheet at the back of your mass centre.



# Leader of Learning:

As we continue our journey through this school year, I am excited to share some updates on the wonderful work happening within our curriculum, particularly in the area of mathematics.

One of our latest initiatives in mathematics education is the introduction of Mathematics Warm-Up activities. These activities have proven to be instrumental in preparing our students for deeper engagement with math concepts during their lessons. Lasting between 5 to 10 minutes, these exercises serve to activate students' prior knowledge, making their transition into more advanced topics smoother and more effective.

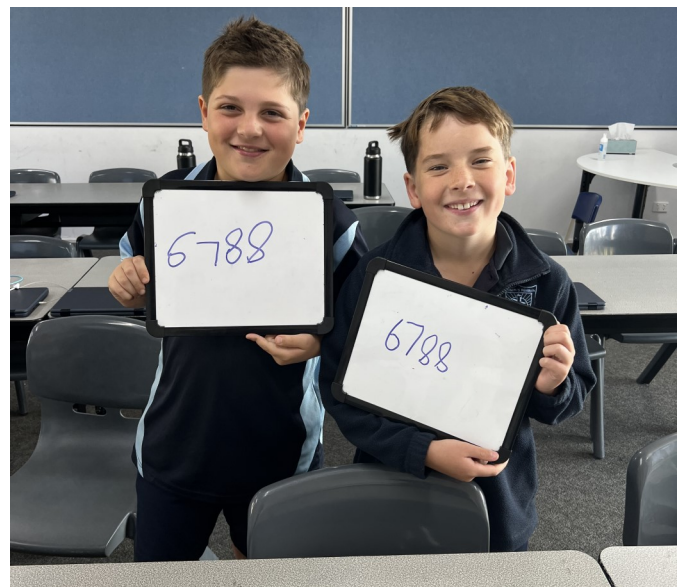
Additionally, we have implemented Number Talks into our weekly routine. These short, focused sessions (lasting 5 to 15 minutes) involve students in mentally solving computational problems and discussing the strategies they used. This practice not only enhances their computational fluency but also fosters a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. We are using insights from our current PAT Mathematics data to inform these Number Talks, ensuring they meet the specific

needs of our students and support their individual learning needs.

To make these sessions interactive and engaging, students are employing various strategies such as "chin it" with their whiteboards. During these activities, students write their answers on whiteboards and then hold them up to their chins, allowing for immediate feedback and encouraging participation. This approach not only reinforces their mathematical skills but also cultivates a supportive learning environment where every student's contributions are valued.

Through these initiatives, we aim to enhance students' automaticity in mathematics and activate their prior learning effectively. By integrating warm-ups and Number Talks into our curriculum, we are equipping our students with the tools and confidence to tackle more complex mathematical challenges.

**Rowie Williams**  
Leader of Learning



## School Fee\$:

A friendly reminder that approx. 2/3 of school fees should be paid by the end of Term 2.

All school fees are to be complete by the end of Term 3. Please see Karen Trenwith to arrange payment options if necessary.



We know that skin damage can occur when the ultraviolet (UV) Index is 3 and above. In South Australia, the UV Index rarely reaches 3 and above from May to July. This means during term 2 and 3 sun protection is generally not required. Remember UV is not related to heat though. We will monitor the UV rating when necessary and advise families when children are to wear their hats.



## SAPSASA News:

Last Friday some of the Year 5 & 6 students participated in SAPSASA Soccer at Barmera. The boys finished 4th in their pool, scoring 5 goals. The girls finished 2nd in their pool, scoring 11 goals. The students enjoyed the day showing great team work, encouragement and sportsmanship. Thank you to Mrs Del Zoppo and Mr K for coaching.

Mr Thomas Smart  
SAPSASA Co-Ordinator



## Parents and Friends:

Deciding what to put in the kid's lunchboxes is a weekly struggle. Treading the line of something somewhat healthy but, that they will actually eat, can be difficult! These balls are not the healthiest option, but I know that my kids will eat them every time!

### Lunchbox balls

250g packet of Marie biscuits (or similar sweet biscuit, arrowroots also work well)

395g can condensed milk

1 cup desiccated coconut

2 tablespoons of milo

Extra coconut for rolling

Crush the biscuits to crumbs and add to a bowl with all the other ingredients. Mix well, then roll 1 heaped teaspoon full into balls (wet hands makes this easier) and roll in the extra coconut. Place on tray and then into the fridge for an hour or so to set. Once set they will keep in a container in the fridge for a few days, or they can be frozen.

You can substitute the milo in this recipe for:

2 tablespoons of cocoa, or ½ cup diced dried fruit & an extra ¼ cup coconut, or whatever takes your fancy really!

Jo Lloyd  
P&F Committee



## AFL Opportunity:



Two of our students were very lucky to be involved in the recent Sydney/Adelaide AFL game on the weekend.

Lawson Dring, along with his brother Campbell, were able to be the Junior Mascots for Sydney and ran out onto the ground with the team.

Judd Atkinson was picked from the supporters to receive a small football from Joel Amartey who kicked 9 goals for Sydney.

It was fantastic that country kids are able to get these wonderful opportunities and experiences.

Congratulations boys!

Mr DePalma is VERY jealous!





# Student Wellbeing:

## Leadership Qualities in Children

This week's school value is leadership. Leadership is an essential skill that can be developed at any age. It is not just about managing others or making decisions but also about being accountable, inspiring others, and solving problems.

### Why is leadership important?

When kids learn to take charge of their own lives and make a difference in the world around them, they gain a sense of agency. When kids are given opportunities to take the lead, they grow in confidence and acquire skills that help them solve problems in novel ways, work well with others, and coordinate their efforts.

### How to help develop leadership skills:

**Promote Teamwork:** Leadership qualities in children are developed quickly through teamwork. Getting kids to help with chores or letting them participate in team-based extracurricular activities can accelerate the mastering of communication, social, problem-solving, and cooperation skills.

**Set Boundaries:** Strong leaders have clear boundaries. Teaching children to set and maintain boundaries help ensure that everyone is clear on expectations and responsibilities. Boundaries help maintain well-being and provide a greater sense of control.

**Give Them Choices:** Character and leadership activities for kids include creating opportunities for them to make choices. For instance, allowing them to select what to wear, or choose between different snacks, requires consideration. As they get older, they need to be comfortable making choices. More than that, they also have to be okay with being accountable and accepting the consequences of their choices.

**Enroll In Camps:** Kids camps can be an important catalyst for developing leadership skills in children. They teach kids the importance of social leadership through games, discussion, role-playing, and teamwork activities. At camps, kids are surrounded by others their age throughout the process, which provides them with the support and peer mentorship needed for personal growth. Collaborative summer camps also foster teamwork, a prerequisite for leadership.

**Volunteering in Activities:** Volunteering gives children a different perspective. Young ones are curious and inclined to ask many questions around the why, how, and what they can do to help. This sparks creative thinking around the solution to real-world problems.

**Encourage Perseverance:** The ability to persevere and overcome challenges is key to success in work and relationships.

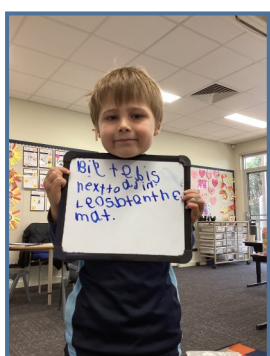
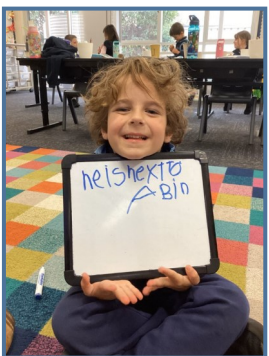
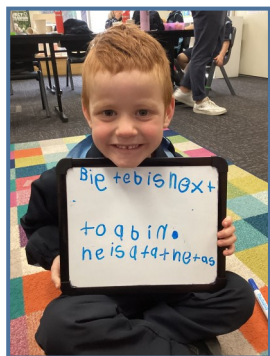
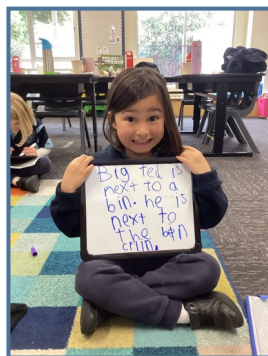
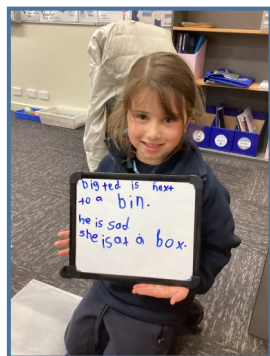


### 'Be the Light Day' Tree Display

Our beautiful tree for 'Be the Light Day' is now complete. Each of our staff members and students have a lantern hanging on the tree. This special tree ties in beautifully with our Catholic Education theme for this year 'Let Your Light Shine.' You will find this display on the blue wall next to the canteen. Join your child/ren in finding their lanterns on this special tree.



## Busy Learners in R/SH class:



We are very busy learners in R/SH! We enjoy playing number games with cards, practicing our sentence writing on whiteboards, learning social skills through discovery time and drawing pictures to demonstrate our learning.

