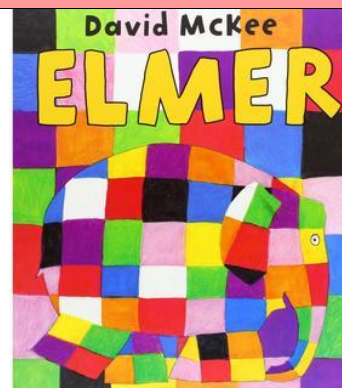


BIG Question

Is it good to be different?

Welcome back to school and welcome to our new 6 families joining our Sacred Heart community. I hope you had an enjoyable break. I am so excited to begin a brand new year with you all – we have some fantastic learning opportunities planned for the year ahead.

This half term, our big question is 'What is it like to be different?' The children will become immersed in the story of Elmer the Patchwork Elephant where they will be introduced to the concept of being different. They will develop their independence and self-care through carefully planned activities and develop a sense of their own identity by talking about themselves, their families and their interests. They will develop their understanding that we are all unique and loved by our families, friends and God and be respectful of the differences of others. By the end of the project the children will have developed an understanding of themselves as an individual.



Stories/ Songs and Rhymes	Communication & Language
Talk for Writing: Elmer Traditional Tales: The Magic Porridge Pot Linked Texts: Owl Babies Rainbow Fish Hair Love The Smartest Giant in town Nursery Rhymes: Twinkle Twinkle Humpty Dumpty Incy Wincy Spider Circle Songs & Action Rhymes The Mulberry Bush London Bridge Is Falling Down Old Macdonald	• Practicing listening and attention activities. • Responding to simple instructions/questions. • Responding to stories with interest. • Talking about themselves, home and their families. • Developing our awareness of nursery rhymes
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development
• Exploring what a good friend is. • Exploring teamwork through our introductory PE unit • Talking about our school motto 'Everyone is Sacred' and understanding the meaning of this • Building relationships with others. • Developing our independence in self-care. • Exploring growth mindset. • Talking about ways that we learn. • Learning our 'Be' Rules and behaviour expectations in the classroom	• Exploring teamwork through our introductory PE unit • Self-care in dressing/undressing • Finger gym activities • Scissor control • Exploring mark making • Safety in the hall • Gross motor activities (outdoor physical play) • Daily writing/handwriting opportunities • Daily use of one-handed resources and tools

Literacy	Mathematics
• We will begin RWI phonic sessions learning set 1 sounds. • Exploring books and developing early reading skills • Drawing pictures. Giving meaning to our marks. • Pencil control • Writing RWI sounds learnt • Name writing • Learning Makaton • Recalling our 'Talk for Writing' story – Elmer. • Listening and responding to the Creation story • Weekly drawing club lessons • Drawing our herd – linking to families	• Subitising • Counting, cardinality and ordinality • Composition of numbers • Comparison
Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design
• Exploring our own herd (families) • Our role in the Sacred Heart family • Exploring natural objects linked to our RE work • Naming different parts of our body and ordering the human lifecycle • Explore using our 5 senses • Listening and responding to the Creation story • Mary's Birthday/ inspirational women – Mary Seacole • Exploring Autumn weather (observations of Autumn) • Harvest learning linked to our local parish	• Action songs and nursery rhymes • The Rainbow song 'British Sign Language' • Imaginative role play (home corner) • Exploring colour and colour mixing • Exploring musical instruments • Creating natural collages • Using tools for different purposes.
Vocabulary	Catholic Life
Elmer herd, different, patchwork The Magic Porridge Pot wept, overjoyed, oozed Owl Babies brave, trunk, silent Rainbow Fish shimmering, mixing, printing Hair Love proud, tiptoed, special The Smartest Giant in Town scruffiest, enormous, magnificent	Gospel Values Kindness Courage Catholic Social Teaching Belonging, Identity, compassion, individuality, relationships, community, equality, friendship Religious Education: Creation and Covenant The children will learn that God made the world and themselves. They will understand that we need to look after ourselves and the world in which we live. The children will be able to identify themselves as part of God's family. 

Key Messages

- Please ensure that your child brings their schoolbook bag each day.
- Children will need a named drinks bottle (They will have access to this throughout the day, and staff will refill these).
- Children do not need to bring their own snack into school – we receive free fruit from the local authority, and we use this during snack time.
- Our PE session is a Wednesday morning, your child will need a PE kit in school, which is kept in school and returned for washing at the end of each half term.
- All weekly updates and communication will be sent through Class Dojo, it is crucial that you check this platform regularly to receive up to date information.
- As we learn new faces, please be patient with members of staff at the end of the school day. Our priority is to ensure that children are safely dismissed. It won't take us long to remember you all we promise!
- The reception team are very approachable. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or Mrs Tucker at the beginning of the day or once all children have been dismissed. You can also contact Mrs Pancott through the chat function on Class Dojo.

Many thanks Mrs Pancott 😊

Home Learning

Each Friday the children will receive a school library book and reading material based on their reading skills.

The library book is for an adult to read to their child.

The reading material will initially be sounds that the children have learnt in class. As the child develop their independent reading skills, they will begin to bring home books that they will be able to independently read.

All books will need to be returned to school on a Wednesday and new books will be handed out each Friday.

Be Safe Be Respectful Be Ready
Everyone is Sacred

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter; we hope you have found the information useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on pancott@shrcps.org or via ClassDojo. Please note, our staff wellbeing policy states that we should not be responding to emails during evenings and weekends, but we will get back to you as soon as possible during working hours.