

Our School: Together-Apart

Rebuilding Community: Friendship Builders



A note for parents and carers:

At school, your child will be used to taking part in collective worship every day (they might call it 'assembly'). This is not the kind of worship that some of you might have been part of in a religious building. In church schools this collective worship is planned to be:

- **Inclusive:** something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none to be able to join in with
- **Inspirational:** a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives; an occasion that supports the school community's spiritual development, creates an opportunity to gather around and reflect on a common theme and 'feeds' their inner being;
- **Invitational:** in school, children and teachers are invited to pray, think, or reflect, it is the child's or teacher's choice how they respond.

As you know, some children are returning to school, whilst others are not. These resources are for the children at home, to help provide that sense of normality, and prepare them for their return in due course. They will be similar to materials we have prepared for use in school, helping your school community to feel that it still belongs together. Please be clear: these ideas are for you to use, adapt, or not use at all. You choose!

Theme: Friendship Builders
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This resource again reminds children about their school's values. There should be information about these on your school's website if you don't know what they are. Children in school will be thinking about school values and friendship especially this week as well. There are some games that children will be playing in school during this week, which can be played whilst observing physical distancing. These can be found on p.3.
Things to talk about together: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who are your friends?• What qualities would you say are most important in a good friend?• How does observing the rules for physical distancing help to keep friends safe at this time?• How have you managed to stay in touch with people outside your household during lockdown?• Are there other ways that we can continue to build friendships?• Someone once said 'If you want a friend, be a friend.' How does this work?• How have your school's values helped you to build strong friendships when you were at school?
Things to do together: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a chain of paper people using paper and the instructions in this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPU1VxqF1fM Write on each person the name of a friend. You will need these for the reflection activity. Can you make other shapes that link together like this?• Share the reflective reading on p.2 and use the reflective questions at the end. Think about ways that you could do some of these things as a household e.g. contributing to your local food bank, helping neighbours etc. How does observing the rules for physical distancing help to keep friends safe at this time? Are there other ways that we can still build friendships even though we're not at school with our friends?• Look back at the story of Nehemiah: find out how he cared for the people who were a part of his community. He knew that these things were important to God, and so they should be important to him too. What connections are there between his story and the words of Jesus?• Write a letter or draw a picture for a friend who you are missing. Tell them all the things that you are looking forward to doing when you are back together again. Although this might make you a bit sad, this time will come to an end, and it will mean such a lot to your friends to hear from you.• Play some of the games on p.3 with the people in your household How do they help you to build strong relationships? Perhaps you could try playing 'Mirror, Mirror' with a friend on a facetime or zoom call. Would another game work on facetime?• Share a film about friendship together e.g. Finding Nemo, Toy Story, or many other Disney classics! Talk about how the characters solved friendship problems.
Things to reflect on or pray about together: you will each need your paper people
Hold the chain of people in your hand: <ul style="list-style-type: none">....think about the words of Jesus about seeing the things that people needhow might these words help us to be better friends?......now look at the names of the people on your chain.......what sort of friend might they need at the moment?.........how could you still be a friend to someone who is not with you at the moment?........and what about the people in your household; how could you be better friends to them?... <p>You might want to bring all these people to God in prayer....</p> <p>You could use these words if you'd like to:</p>



Dear God,
Thank you for the gift of friendship. Thank you for my friends.....[name them]
Help me to be the kind of friend who 'keeps their eyes open' and is always looking out for ways to help others.
Amen

When I was.....

Gather the objects listed below to use this reflective reading together.

You will need:

a plate & some food [real or role play]; a glass of water; a chain of paper people (which you can re-use in the reflection!); some dolls' clothes;(or a small item of clothing such as gloves) a 'thermometer' from a role play first aid kit; a large bunch of keys.

People were always asking Jesus, 'What's important in God's kingdom?' so Jesus spoke these words:

I was hungry	<i>[lay plate of food]</i>	You shared your food
I was thirsty	<i>[lay glass of water]</i>	You gave me a drink
I was alone	<i>[lay people 'chain']</i>	You kept me company
I had no clothes	<i>[lay dolls' clothes]</i>	You gave me something to wear
I was ill	<i>[lay thermometer]</i>	You looked after me
I was in prison	<i>[lay keys]</i>	You visited me

Whenever you helped someone in need you helped me.

The people who do these things are the people of God's kingdom.

I wonder.....

...what you think about these ideas?...

...I wonder why these things might be important to God?....

....and why Jesus chose these actions as the answer to peoples' questions?....

....or how we might do some of these things at the moment?....

....I wonder how these words might help us to be better friends?.....

...I wonder what your friends might need at this time?....

....they will be thinking about you, just as you are thinking about them....

Games that encourage social connections, with physical distancing

Many thanks to @misswilliams29 for these ideas

Mirror, Mirror

- Children to face a partner from a 2m distance
- One of the two pupils starts to show various motions/movements
- The other individual then mirrors the motions/movements
- After a given time limit, the partners are to swap roles



@misswilliams29

Bean

- Runner beans – jogging on the spot
- Broad beans – standing tall and walking on tiptoes
- Jumping beans – jumping on the spot
- Jelly beans – moving around like jelly
- Kidney beans – hopping on the spot and holding on to one knee
- Baked beans – crouching down and curling up very small



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Traffic Lights

- Red – stop
- Amber – jogging on spot
- Green – jogging/running
- Move lanes – changing direction



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Video Game

- Play – walking
- Pause – stop
- Fast forward – jogging/running
- Rewind – walking backwards
- Record – walking using silly actions or faces



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Washing Machine

- Dress – standing with legs and arms outstretched
- Trousers – sitting on floor with legs outstretched together
- Shorts – sitting on floor and hugging legs into stomach
- Wash – jumping up and down on the spot
- Spin – spinning/turning on the spot



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Simon Says...

- One player takes the role of 'Simon' and then begins to issue instructions to the rest of the group
- Children only follow the instructions that begin with "Simon says..."



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Jungle

- Children are running through the jungle and are given a series of commands to follow as they escape different animals:
- Jumping over logs
- Ducking under branches
- High knees
- Running from a given animal
- Tiptoeing past a given animal
- Swinging through the jungle like Tarzan



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Pirate Ship

- Main deck – jogging on the spot
- Port – children jogging to their left
- Starboard – children jogging to their right
- Stem – walking backwards
- Scrubbing the deck – crouching down and pretending to clean the floor
- Climb the rigging – pretending to climb a rope ladder
- Walk the plank – walking in a perfect straight line with one foot in front of the other and arms outstretched
- Shark attack – crouching and moving with one bent arm forming a shark fin



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Under the Sea

- Starfish – star jumps on the spot
- Crab – sideways scuttling movements
- Dolphin – crouching low and leaping up on the spot
- Stingray – crouching low and gliding around
- Octopus – moving around slowly using jelly arms and jelly legs



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Zip, Zap, Zoom!

- Form a circle and stand 2m from each other
- Zip – clap-point to the person on your left
- Zap – clap-point to the person on your right
- Zoom – clap-point to somebody else at another location in the circle
- The person selected must then keep the game going
- Restart if the wrong command is said or someone claps in the wrong direction



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Pass the Movements

- Children line up behind the game leader, standing 2m apart from one another
- Children close their eyes and can only open them when they hear their name called
- The game leader says the name of the person behind them. This child opens their eyes and the leader then silently shows them 1-3 movements to memorise
- The aim is to pass the movements from beginning to end without making any mistakes



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Countdown

- Form a circle and stand 2m apart from one another
- The aim is to count down from 15 to 1
- The game leader will start the countdown at 15
- Another player will say the next lowest number
- Children in the circle can say any number
- If two players say a number at the same time then they must do 5 star jumps and begin the game again



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