

Assembly Resource

Look at the different causes of loneliness. In January the first ever government 'Minister for Loneliness' was appointed. Using the causes provided, what kind of ideas might we suggest to the new minister to help combat loneliness? E.g. perhaps something fun like local street parties, or pen pals with people from different towns.

Being ill for a long time.

Living alone.

Being a naturally shy person.

Some of the causes of loneliness

Not having many friends or family close by.

Playing a lot of games online.

Moving somewhere new and not knowing anyone.

British Values

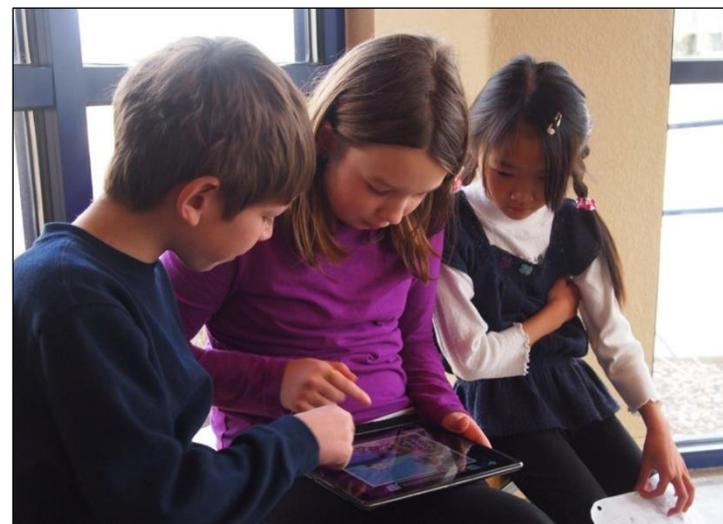
23rd-29th April

Mutual Respect

It's important to spot the signs of loneliness and look out for those who are lonely. If we experience loneliness ourselves we should tell those around us and get the support we need.

KS1 Resource

Look at some of the pictures from the KS1 resource talk about what we think is happening in each one. Someone is feeling lonely in each one, can we spot who? Is it always easy to tell if someone is lonely?



KS2 Resource

Read through the help letter from a mum about her daughter. What advice might you give to the mum? Have you ever felt similar to how her daughter may be feeling or do you know anyone who has?

Please help!

My 9-year-old daughter, who has no brothers or sisters, has been to two different schools. She had one friend in the first school but said all the other girls would always refuse to let her join in games.

The school tried to help, but it didn't make much difference.

In the next school, everyone seemed interested in her at the start but sadly the same thing happened again, and birthday parties, outings, visits to friends - she didn't get invited. She was often alone in the playground and got picked on a bit. Other girls seemed very nice but didn't want her in their groups. I

spoke to the school about it as she was so lonely, and then some of the girls tried to include her.

She is a nice girl, kind-hearted, a bit quiet and not good in crowds. Her confidence was better when

younger, as now she believes she is unlikeable. She also says she is ugly. She has always found

schoolwork difficult and believes that other children think she isn't very clever- she is also a bit of a

daydreamer.

She refuses to join anything outside school. I just wonder when it is going to get better. She wakes up unhappy, not a smiley happy girl like she could be. It all doesn't make sense, and no one is able to tell me why this happens, and keeps happening - the schools don't know - my daughter doesn't know -

does this ever get better? I wish I could help her but nothing I have done seems to work.

Any advice would be great please!



Picture News

at Home

23rd April 2018

What's going on this week?



23rd- 29th April

**What does loneliness
feel like?**

The UK has a loneliness problem and it's getting worse. The UK government even appointed a loneliness minister to tackle the problem at the start of the year.

It's often thought that loneliness is only a problem for older people, but it seems that young people are actually at the heart of the issue with 1 in 20 young people stating that they've felt lonely.

Things to talk about at home...

- 🍏 Have you ever felt lonely? Can you think of words to describe how it feels? If not, could you imagine what it would be like?
- 🍏 Is being 'lonely' the same as being alone?
- 🍏 In January, for the first time, a special job was created a 'loneliness minister'. What kinds of things do you think they could do to help with loneliness?
- 🍏 Are you surprised that there are now more younger people feeling lonely than older people? Why do you think more young people are feeling lonelier?



Picture News

What's going on this week?

The UK, has a loneliness problem and it's getting worse. The UK government even appointed a loneliness minister at the start of the year to tackle the problem. It's often thought that loneliness is only a problem for older people, but it seems that young people are actually at the heart of the issue with 1 in 20 young people stating that they've felt lonely.

Main question:

What does loneliness feel like?

Listen, think, share

- Look at the poster image and talk about what is happening. How do we think the child in the picture is feeling? Ask the children if they've ever felt lonely. When was it, why did we feel lonely and how did it make us feel?
- Explain that being lonely is often thought to be a problem suffered more by older people but there are more and more young people feeling lonely in modern times. Why do we think this might be the case? Talk about how modern technology is taking us away from spending time with other people.
- Watch up to 2:30 of the 'Lonely Dodo' video (found in useful videos overleaf). What do we think makes the dodo feel lonely? Even though he's surrounded by other creatures, he still feels lonely. Why do we think this is? E.g. could it be because there is no one else like him? Can we think of any other reasons for feeling lonely? E.g. because we may have moved to somewhere where we don't know anyone, we may have had a fallout with friends or we may be shy when we're around others.
- Look at the assembly resource which discusses different causes of loneliness and tell the children that in January the first ever government 'Minister for Loneliness' was appointed. Using the causes provided, what kind of ideas might we suggest to the new minister to help combat loneliness?

Reflection

Loneliness is a growing problem in modern times. It's important to look out for the signs, to help others and to make sure if we ever feel lonely to talk to others, however hard it might feel at the time.



Picture News

KS1 Focus

Question:

How can you help someone who is feeling lonely?

Listen, think, share

- Write the word 'lonely' on the board and ask what this word means?
- Look at some of the pictures from the KS1 resource talk about what we think is happening in each one and explain that someone is feeling lonely in each one, can we spot who? Is it always easy to tell if someone is lonely?
- Talk about why we think each of the people might be feeling lonely. Explain that the number of people feeling lonely is getting bigger, so people in the government would like to do more to help. What kinds of things do we think they should do?
- Explain that anyone can feel lonely at any time and talk about what we should do if we ever feel lonely e.g. talk to others, take part in group activities.
- If someone that we know is feeling lonely, e.g. a family member or friend, what kinds of things could we do to help? E.g. take them somewhere for the day, spend time talking to them etc.

Reflection

If we know someone feels lonely, we will be sure to spend time with them and let them know that we care!



Picture News

KS2 Focus

Question:

Are loneliness and being alone the same?

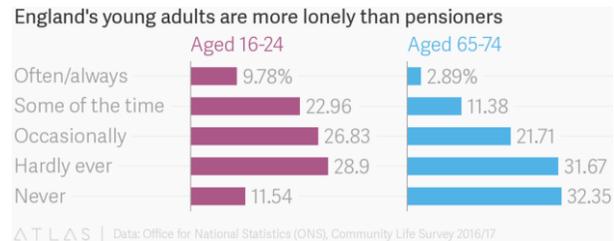
Listen, think, share

- Write the words 'lonely' and 'alone', ask the children to provide a definition for each. Is everyone who is lonely alone? Is everyone who is alone lonely? Discuss our thoughts and responses to these questions.
- Explain how there are likely to be times where we all may choose and want to be alone and this is very different from the feelings of loneliness that some people may have.
- Watch the video about Robyn who has changed schools seven times (from the useful videos overleaf). Despite being surrounded by people in her new schools, Robyn often feels lonely. Why do you think this is?
- Talk about what the hardest things were for Robyn. How did Robyn try and cope with feeling left out and lonely? Can you think of any advice that you would give to Robyn?
- Read through the help letter from a mum about her daughter from the KS2 resource. What advice might you give to the mum? Have you ever felt similar to how her daughter may be feeling or do you know anyone who has?

KS2 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Recap KS2 resource. Focus on the help letter from the mum about her daughter. Ask the children to discuss in more depth how they might respond if the daughter was part of their class. Write a letter back to the mum. Consider formal letter structure and use of vocabulary to reassure and gently persuade.

Maths: Show the children the following information:



Ask them to interpret it. Discuss what a percentage is. Is it possible that 100 people were surveyed? How do you know this wasn't the amount? Discuss the fact you can only have whole people!

Science: Research solitary animals (animals that prefer to be alone). One of the reasons they prefer to be alone is to avoid competition. Discuss what this is and how being solitary allows them to survive.

KS1

Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Ask the children to think about what it feels like to be lonely. What advice might they give somebody in their class if they were feeling lonely? Record a list or write a letter to somebody who is feeling lonely. You could keep these somewhere in the classroom for anyone who is feeling lonely to read!

Maths: People aged 65 are more likely to never feel lonely than people aged 16. What is the difference in age? Model how to find this. What is the difference between their age and a 16 year old? Their age and a 65 year old?

Role-play/computing: Display the pictures from KS1 assembly resource in your role-play corner. As they play, ask the children to consider if they see people looking like the people in the pictures, they might be lonely. Practise what they could do and say to help the person feeling that way. What might the person do to help themselves? Allow the children time to photograph their own scenes showing someone lonely and then perhaps what that person does to help the loneliness. Show the children how to retrieve the digital content. Print and display!

DT: Explain that sometimes an object or a thing can help people feel less lonely. Design and make a junk model robot or creature that might help them if they were feeling lonely. They could name their model and use it to share their thoughts and feelings.

This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

<https://bbc.in/2H42pbz>

This Week's Useful Videos

The Lonely Dodo story

<http://bit.ly/2qEs9jG>

Loneliness: Robyn's story

<https://bbc.in/2H6c0OW>

Shock netball win at the end of the Commonwealth Games

England's netballers stunned favourites, Australia, to secure the greatest result in their history and win their first Commonwealth Games gold medal. Helen Housby scored in the final second to give England a 52-51 victory. Having staged a dramatic comeback to beat Jamaica in the semi-finals, the Roses matched the hosts 25-25 at half-time of their first Commonwealth final. "It's my dream come true," said head coach Tracey Neville, "The girls have worked so hard over the last international phase."



Pictured: The English netball team.

Home schools – should there be more checks?



Pictured: A child being educated at home.

There are nearly 50,000 children who are educated at home instead of at school in the UK. The government wants to run more checks and is looking closer at making sure that children taught at home are getting a good education. At the moment, there is no registration system for families choosing to educate their children at home. It means that the number of home-schooled children are unknown.

Do you think families who choose to educate at home should need to register and have checks?

Why do people take part in chilli-eating contests?

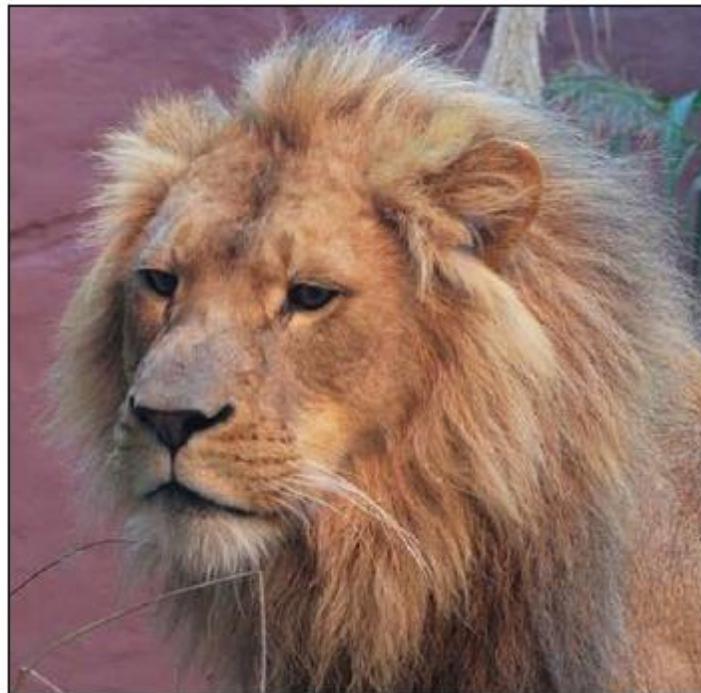


Pictured: A typical chilli-eating contest.

For some people putting chillies in a meal can ruin it, while for others they make it taste nicer! Then there's a group of people who seek out the hottest chillies around - and eat them in competitions! "It does become almost sort of addictive in a way," says Chilli Dave, of the Clifton Chilli Club. Karl Muzio, from the Fiery Foods UK Festival, says his company's Brighton event is proving so popular this year that they'll hold three competitions over three days.

What do you think of the people who take part in the contests?

Are there as many of your favourite animals as you think?



Pictured: A lion

The most popular animals in the world are in more danger than we might think, according to a new study. A recent survey suggests that many people are unaware that the animals that are the most popular are under threat in the wild.

Animals seen in adverts and on TV such as elephants, tigers and lions are not as common as we might think. Researchers suspect the animals' media ubiquity may lead people to think they are doing very well in the wild.



23rd- 29th April

What does loneliness feel like?

