



# Jessie Younghusband School

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Aspire ~ Respect ~ Enjoy

12<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

## Re: Friendship Week 2018

Next week, we will be holding our annual 'Friendship Week' in school!

National Anti-Bullying Week is taking place across the country this week (Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018). However, due to other events in school over the next few days, we are making next week our special week to celebrate friendships.



Anti-Bullying Week is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the event helps schools across England to shine a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers and parents to come together to take action against bullying.

The theme this year is '**Choose Respect**', with the following key aims:

- to ensure that children and young people, school staff and parents all understand the definition of respect;
- to recognise that bullying is a behaviour choice;
- to know that we can respectfully disagree with each other, i.e. we don't have to be best friends or always agree with each other but we do have to respect each other;
- to encourage everyone to choose to respect each other, both face to face and online, in order to prevent bullying.

## JYS 'Friendship Week' Activities

It is brilliant that this year's 'Choose Respect' theme links so closely to our school values of 'Aspire ~ Respect ~ Enjoy'! Within our Friendship Week activities, we will be focusing on how being respectful to others and feeling respected ourselves can have a huge impact on our ability to do our best and to enjoy our learning fully.



We will be holding some special whole-school assemblies during the week, in which the children will be introduced to the 'Choose Respect' theme. Over the course of the week, all classes will also spend time exploring what we can do to enable everyone in our school community to feel safe, valued and respected. Discussions will be linked closely to our school values and to the British Values of 'individual liberty' and 'mutual respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs'.

At the end of 'Friendship Week' we will celebrate our learning through displays of work, which will be put up around the school.

The focus of this year's 'Friendship Week' is a very positive one which promotes an understanding of equality and tolerance. However, within class discussions we will also remind the children of what can happen when we forget to use our kindness and friendship skills to help everyone to feel respected and valued. We will discuss what bullying is and will explore how we can all take responsibility for preventing bullying behaviours in our school.

At JYS we use the '**STOP**' acronym to remind us that bullying is 'the intentional hurting of a person **Several Times On Purpose**' and that it is different from a one-off disagreement or falling-out between friends.



### **Anti-Bullying Alliance 'Top Tips' Resources**

The Anti-Bullying Alliance has produced a list of 'top tips' about bullying, to support parents, carers, children and young people. You can access the resources by visiting the following website: <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/what-bullying/anti-bullying-top-tips>.

They have also produced a free interactive online tool to support parents to understand bullying and what to do if you're worried about it – you can access it at: <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/advice-parents/interactive-anti-bullying-tool-parents>.

Please do talk about our 'Friendship Week' activities with your child/children at home, to help them consolidate their learning. I hope that everyone in our school community will enjoy participating in our 'Friendship Week' and that the event will remind us about how we can continue to make JYS a very happy, caring and supportive place to learn and play, where everyone feels respected for who they are.

Yours sincerely,

*S. Neville*

Mrs Neville  
PSHE Leader



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