



The Big Think

The Big Newsletter Volume 11

Connecting Classrooms in Lockdown

On 25 January 2021 we launched our new values and wellbeing lesson series **Connecting Classrooms** to support teachers in bringing your whole class together each week.



Connecting Classrooms - Values and Wellbeing

Teachers - we know you are working incredibly hard (face-to-face and virtually) to keep your pupils engaged and feeling supported, so we wanted to offer you some support in connecting your children once a week in a safe, fun and meaningful way through story sharing, talking about feelings and mindfulness.

The Big Think team has put together 2 sets of 5 mini lessons (for ages 5 to 7 and for ages 7 to 11), suitable for virtual, home and classroom learning. These 45-minute multi-media kits are specially designed to support the mental and emotional wellbeing of both primary school children and you, the teachers, during this challenging time.

They offer you a simple online format to help bring your classes together in a safe space to reconnect once a week - and all sessions support statutory RSHE guidance for Relationships Education and Mental Wellbeing.

Based on The Big Think's 5 core values, we have selected 5 related values that will feel especially relevant to children living in lockdown.

1. COMMUNITY - Kindness to Others

Can you show kindness to others even when you feel worried?

KS1 and KS2 The Big Story: Spread Kindness - children's experiences of the pandemic

2. PEACE – Resilience

Have you ever had to be resilient to get through something hard?

KS1 The Big Story: The Rumbles

KS2 The Big Story: Dear Belly

- both stories are about a working family living with food scarcity

3. RESPONSIBILITY - Time Well Spent

Do you choose to make good use of your time?

KS1 The Big Story: An Autumn Walk - spending time with family outside

KS2 The Big Story: Second Time Around - an older sibling learns how to spend quality time with her brother

4. LOVE - Inner Happiness

What makes YOU happy inside?

KS1 The Big Story: My Inside Weather - identifying our inside feelings
KS2 The Big Story: #NoFilter - choosing between inner and outer happiness by reflecting on our use of social media

5. TRUTH - Hope and Optimism

Can being optimistic have an impact on the world around you?

KS1 The Big Story: Searching for the Spirit of Spring
KS2 The Big Story: The Jupiter Stone - two friends consider where luck and good fortune come from.

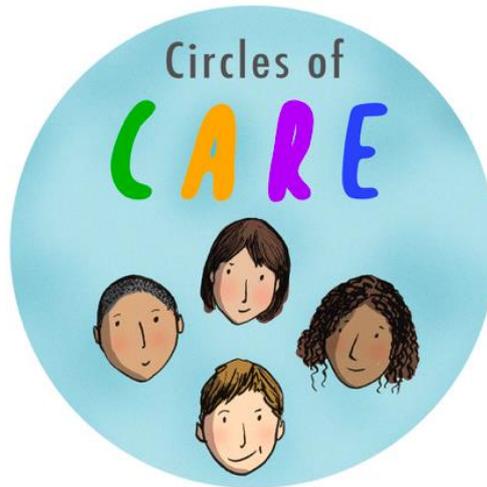
In order to reach as many schools and children as possible we are making the two sets of KS1 and KS2 5-lesson kits available for only £25, which includes a £5 donation to [Feeding Britain](#). (If you are a school that is unable to pay, please get in touch.)

Included in each Connecting Classrooms kit:

Silent Sitting Mindfulness Track - for focus and calm
The Big Story - for empathy
Lesson Plan & Lesson Screens
plus a [Connecting Classrooms Virtual Training Film](#)

[Buy Connecting Classroom series](#)

During the first lockdown we created a mini programme called Circles of CARE to help classrooms reconnect when returning to school. This free resource pack, comprising 2 sets of 4 wellbeing circle time lessons for KS1 and KS2, is still available and can be easily adapted to use online to help bring your class together once a week.



[Download Circles of CARE](#)

Circles of CARE is part of the Anna Freud Mentally Healthy Schools Lockdown Toolkit list.

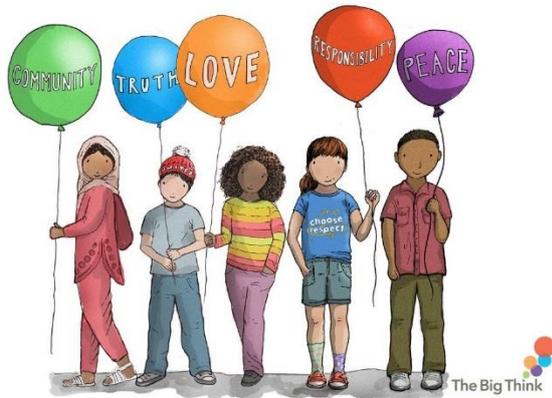


Values in Action

Our **Compassion at Christmas** Campaign has raised £840 so far for food bank charity [Feeding Britain](#).

[At Christmas](#), our specially commissioned Christmas 2020 song, shown as a signed singing film, was viewed almost 1000 times with over 50 schools using our [Resilience learning kits](#).

If you see children putting 'Values in Action' during your Virtual Classroom sessions, how about sending home The Big Think postcards to share with parents and carers? They can be ordered from our [website shop](#).



Dear.....

We are very impressed with how

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showed the core value of

by

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From



[Order TBT Postcards](#)



January 2021

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Our mailing address is:
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