



# Jessie Younghusband School

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Aspire ~ Respect ~ Enjoy

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Friendship Week 2023

Next week, we will be holding our annual 'Friendship Week' in school, to coincide with National Anti-Bullying Week, which will be taking place across the country between Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023.



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 '**Make a Noise about Bullying**', with the following call to action:

"Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter'.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Of course, we won't like everyone and we don't always agree, but we can choose respect and unity.

This Anti-Bullying Week let's come together to have discussions about what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying. Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying.

From the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, let's make a noise about bullying."

### JYS 'Friendship Week' Activities

We will hold a special whole-school assembly on Monday to introduce the children to our 'Friendship Week' and the 'Make a Noise about Bullying' theme.

The focus of our 'Friendship Week' is a positive one, which promotes an understanding of equality and tolerance. Class discussions will be linked closely to our school values of 'Aspire ~ Respect ~ Enjoy' and to the British Values of 'democracy', 'individual liberty' and 'mutual respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs'.



Within class discussions we will talk with the children about what can happen when we forget to use our kind words and friendship skills.

Over the course of next week, all classes will spend time learning about what bullying is and how it can make people feel.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance defines bullying as 'The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power'. At JYS, we use the '**STOP**' acronym to remind us that bullying is 'the intentional hurting of a person **S**everal **T**imes **O**n **P**urpose' and that it is different from a one-off disagreement or falling-out between friends. These key messages are displayed in classrooms for teachers and children to refer to on an on-going basis.



During the course of our 'Friendship Week', the children will be asked to think about different ways in which they can show respect towards others and take a positive stand against bullying by 'making a noise' about it.

### **Anti-Bullying Alliance 'Parent Pack' Resource**

The Anti-Bullying Alliance has produced a free 'Parent Pack' to provide guidance for parents and carers, to help them support their child in dealing with issues related to bullying. The pack can be downloaded from the Anti-Bullying Alliance website by following this link:

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying/parents-and-carers>

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,

Mrs Neville  
PSHE Subject Leader