

# Great Big Live Assembly



A national school assembly  
to celebrate

*WORLD  
CHILDREN'S  
DAY*



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# GREAT BIG LIVE *ASSEMBLY*

**Monday 20th of November at 9.05am**

Nearly a third of the total human population living right now are children. Too often those children can get the impression that they are too young to matter, too unimportant to be listened to or too little to do anything significant.

World Children's Day is an opportunity to put that record straight. It's a day to champion children's voices and children's rights, promote awareness of issues that impact children, and improve child welfare worldwide. It is a chance to celebrate children and encourage them to speak up, take action and become change-makers.

Sadly there are many places where children are struggling. An estimated 290 million children globally have no legal proof of existence, because their births were not registered, and therefore struggle to get educated or receive healthcare. 4.3 million children in the UK are living in poverty and one in six children globally live in extreme poverty. Around the world over 61 million children do not attend primary school. In some countries girls as young as 9 are forced into marriage. At least 330 000 children are held in immigration detention centres, often separated from parents and families. It is more important than ever to speak up about children's rights.

World Children's Day is a reminder to all of us to work together to protect the rights of children, to listen to their concerns, and to work with them to create a better future for everyone

Our Great Big Live Assembly will showcase stories of some amazing children who are speaking out on really important issues. It will encourage children in our schools to think about the issues that matter to them, and to inspire them to take steps to do something about them.

**The Great Big Live Assembly, hosted by Dr Krish Kandiah and Braydon Bray, a 12-year old journalist from FYI will, in just 20 minutes:**

- celebrate the impact children can have for good
- explore why it is important for children to raise their voices on issues that matter to them and how they can do that
- discover what life is like for children speaking up in other countries around the world
- inspire children to make the world a better place





*"World Children's Day is a day to celebrate the power of children to change the world"*

World Children's Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20th. It is an opportunity to highlight critical issues affecting children's lives, and to empower children to become empathetic advocates, activists and change-makers.

**World Children's Day offers schools an opportunity to consider:**

- the ways we can help children understand, protect and advance their rights
- the opportunities to encourage young citizens to contribute to his or her community
- the benefits of inspiring empathy, respect and understanding
- the importance of giving children a voice on issues that matter to them
- the significance of helping children imagine a better future
- the ways to channel frustration into positive action

# TALKING ABOUT *ISSUES THAT IMPACT CHILDREN*

*A classroom that tackles issues children care about shows pupils they are valued as citizens and can become agents of change. We can help them know where to find reliable and reputable sources of information, make links with the curriculum, and develop not only appropriate emotional and moral responses, but practical ones too.*

*There are children in our schools who deal directly and indirectly with the effects of poverty, war, pollution and all sorts of other issues. World Children's Day provides an excellent opportunity to have a meaningful conversation about these things, opening up lines of communication about topics children may otherwise have felt were too difficult or confusing. It can show that it is OK to talk about things that make them feel sad, unsafe or cross. It gives them permission to ask questions, express their feelings and wonder aloud about why things are the way they are and what they can do about them. Here are some tips:*

- 1. Be prepared.** The better you understand the issues around what is happening to children around the world the better you'll be able to manage discussions positively for everyone.
- 2. Enable students to take the lead.** Keep your contributions short or interactive, so children feel like they are taking the lead in the conversation. "Is there anything you want to ask about children around the world?" for example, might prompt their question "What can we do to help children caught up in war?" When the question comes from them, they will be more engaged in active listening.
- 3. Find out what they already know.** Children are likely to have some knowledge of the challenges their peers around the world face due to political, economic or social problems. They may even know what is being done to tackle them. Why not make a list of the difficulties they bring up and focus in on the ones that seem to resonate most. Encourage students to share their own experiences, connections and stories.
- 4. Listen attentively.** Be curious - ask them often what they think and why. Your listening ear permits and enables children to process information and make connections as they speak. It reassures them that they and their opinions, feelings and memories are valuable. It can reveal their beliefs, prejudices, misunderstandings or experiences.
- 5. Be honest.** If you admit when you don't know or understand something - the students are more likely to believe you when you say you do. Taking the time and effort to find out can help them to feel they are valued.
- 6. Facilitate them to express their emotions.** Give children space and opportunity to express their reactions and worries. Ask them "How do you feel about that?" or "How do you think other people might feel about that?" Thank children for sharing their feelings, and praise them for identifying the feelings of others. Point out facial expressions and body language to help them recognise their own range of emotions.
- 7. Build empathy.** By imagining themselves in other people's shoes, considering their perspectives, circumstances or feelings, this builds the empathy and respect children need to develop strong and healthy relationships. Model, praise and encourage empathetic and respectful behaviour to help embed it.
- 8. Call out when things are wrong.** When rights are violated, this can lead to terrible consequences. Ensure the children know that it is wrong not to respect children's rights. Remind them that it is always wrong to hurt children or act in a way that is not in their best interests.
- 9. Reassure them.** It is important that all children feel safe. Reassure them when necessary. Create a safe environment in your classroom where everyone can talk freely and experience compassion, understanding and support.
- 10. Make links with the curriculum.** Wherever you can - in history or literacy etc., make links with the experience of children around the world past and present.
- 11. Inspire them to action.** Find small ways for children to have an impact, and celebrate the steps that are achieved to make the world a better place.
- 12. Be hopeful.** Children are often better than adults at imagining the possibilities: encourage this wherever possible.

# SIGNPOSTS FOR *TEACHERS*

We recommend teachers look at some of the following resources in preparation for the World Children's Day Great Big Live Assembly.

1. [Course by Unicef](#)
2. [Lesson Resources by Unicef](#)
3. [Resources by Oxfam](#)
4. [Resources by Amnesty](#)
5. [Lesson Planet](#)
6. [Edge](#)
7. [Twinkl](#)
8. [Global Citizenship Handbook for Primary Teaching](#)
9. [Lesson resources from National Geographic Kids](#)

# FOR *PARENTS & CARERS*

*You may wish to inform parents and carers that you will be holding an event for World Children's Day. Here is a sample letter you could use.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year, to mark World Children's Day, our school will be taking part in the Great Big Live Assembly. This is a 20-minute virtual assembly that will connect together more than 500 schools simultaneously - around 300,000 children. It will be held at 9.05am on November 20th.

The Great Big Live Assembly will celebrate children everywhere! It's an opportunity to champion children's voices, highlight children's rights, promote awareness of issues that impact children and speak up for child welfare worldwide. The children will be encouraged to take whatever action they can to help make the world a better place.

The Great Big Live Assembly has been organised by the charity Sanctuary Foundation. Dr Krish Kandiah OBE, who leads the charity and will be hosting the assembly, has worked in child welfare for fifteen years. He is an inspirational communicator, children's author and diversity trainer. He is also an experienced foster carer who has received trauma training and will ensure the event is led in an engaging and sensitive way.

The Great Big Live Assembly will be co-hosted by a 12-year-old BAFTA-award winning journalist. It will be interactive, informative and inspirational. It will encourage children to reflect on issues that impact them and talk about what they can do to help those around them. We hope this will make a positive impact not only in our classroom and playground environment but beyond. It would be great if you talked about these things at home too.

We recognise that this event may prompt questions about the plight of children worldwide whose rights are being violated and we have prepared some of our teachers to handle these questions sensitively.

If you would like to know more, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



# LINK AND *TECH*

The technical set up for the Great Big Live Assembly is very simple.

The link to join the assembly is: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf8Fh8\\_xAVc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf8Fh8_xAVc)

This link will send you to a closed YouTube channel.

Please check in advance that you can access YouTube. You should see the following when clicking the link.



If you cannot access this page, please check your firewall settings to ensure it allows access to YouTube.

Simply project this channel using your usual set up.

You can adjust the volume and brightness in the usual way.

The channel will be broadcasting on a loop until 9.05am so you can get everything ready ahead of time.

At 9.05 we will begin the broadcast.

The Great Big Live Assembly will last approximately 25 minutes.





# FOLLOW UP *ACTIVITIES*

*To help the children reflect on what they have heard and seen in the Great Big Live Assembly, why not organise follow up activities that connect with World Children's Day. Here are some ideas of ways you can connect global citizenship learning with the curriculum.*

- 1. Creative Writing:** Discuss the quote by British novelist Edward Bulwer-Lytton: "The pen is mightier than the sword". If the written word was your superpower in the fight for children's rights, what would you say and to whom? Brainstorm the things you feel passionate about and then create a powerful song/letter/newspaper article/rap/poster/graffiti slogan that can reach your target audience.
- 2. Art:** Talk about Protest Art, as explained [here by Tate Kids](#). When is it important to say 'no' to something? How can saying no be a positive message to the world. Make your own protest posters by [following these steps](#).
- 3. Language:** Talk about the 80 different languages spoken in the country of Ghana. What problems might language barriers cause to children growing up in Ghana. Why not learn a few words in Akan or Twi, for example with this [video](#).
- 4. Maths:** Use [this poster](#) explaining the International Rights of the Child to play a simple Bingo game, or a more complex mental maths bingo game (7 = square root of 49, 41 = 369/9 etc/), number sequence memory competition, etc., or get the children to design their own games to help them learn their rights.
- 5. Geography:** Discover how a young eco-activist from Sweden created a global movement with [National Geographic Kids](#) and talk about ways we too can help [save the planet](#).
- 6. PSHE:** Discuss, compile and create a Class Charter of Rights. You could use page 16 of [this Amnesty resource](#) as an example.
- 7. Drama:** "I care about..." game. In groups of three. Child 1 dramatically announces a cause they care about."I care about..." Child 2 declares they care about the same thing "I care about ....." Child 3 asks them "How much do you care about ...." Child 1 and 2 then take it in turns to say and act how much they care. "I care about .... more than ice-cream/video games/ etc. Game ends when they run out of ideas or out of dramatic energy. Discuss how feeling passionate about something can change the way you talk and live.
- 8. Music:** Lots of musicians sing about serious issues. How many songs can you think of? How can music be a force for good in the world?
- 9. RE:** Read Chapter 8 of Whistlestop Tales: Around the Bible with 10 Extraordinary Children. Compare it to the Bible story of Zacchaeus. Think about what had to change in him to make the world a better place, and what he chose to do to make the world a better place.
- 10. PE:** Talk about how sport is good for you, and good for the world. You might like to discuss positive role models like Marcus Rashford or Gary Lineker who stand up for what they believe even though they receive criticism. Work on some resilience and endurance training as a physical aid to remind you that some things are worth fighting for.
- 11. History.** Learn together about children like Anne Frank or Louis Braille or about the childhoods of Nelson Mandela or Florence Nightingale. How did they change the world? Who are the change-makers alive today? How can we have an impact on history?
- 12. Science.** Watch [this video](#) about scientists who are trying to make the world a better place and then focus in on [one of them](#) that works for your class. Talk about the problems that the world faces today. What scientific solutions could help?

# RESOURCES FOR *CHILDREN*

Feeling confident to speak up about issues that matter to you is an important step. As you start that journey, why not connect with others doing similar things so together you can make the world a better place.



## **FYI News Club**

This is a club that's completely free to set up and run! You can check out their resources and sign up here.



## **Sky TV Videos**

SKY TV's FYI have a series of videos about issues that affect children around the world.



## **BBC Bitesize**

Check out this section all about citizenship.



## **National Geographic Kids**

Discover a wealth of information about being a global citizen.



## **Newsround**

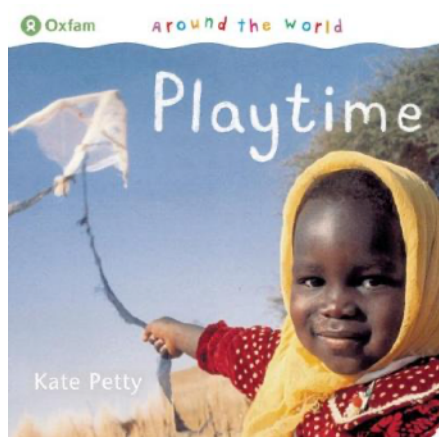
Delve into these stories about climate, the environment and what young people are doing to make a difference



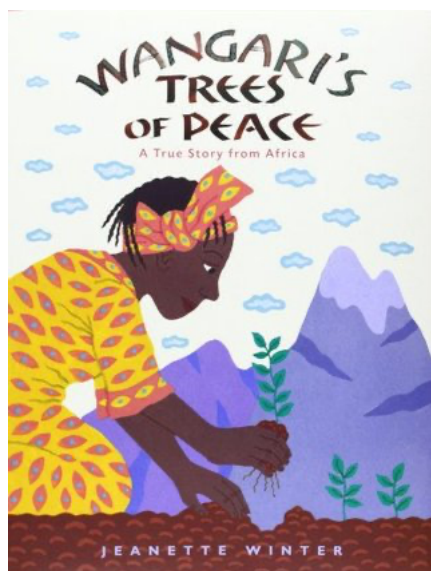
## **Unicef Voices of Youth**

If you are aged 13-24 you can add your voice to this blog and participate in discussions on issues that matter to you

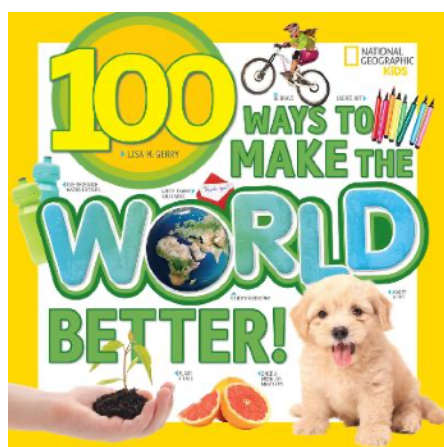
# BOOKS FOR *KS1*



Here are pictures of children from all around the world having fun playing alone or with their friends. Illustrated with stunning photographs from Vietnam, Russia, Ethiopia and many more countries, this series is perfect to share with children. Published in association with Oxfam this series aims to draw parallels between children from many different cultures.



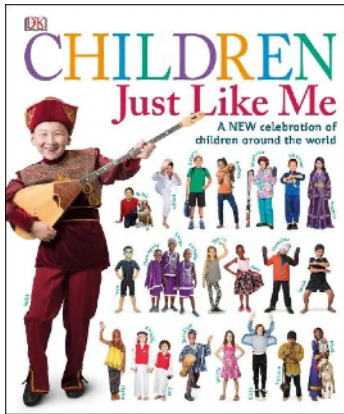
Growing up in Kenya, Wangari was surrounded by trees. But when she returns home years later, she is shocked to see the forests being destroyed. So Wangari decides to do something about it. This is the true story of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Wangari Maathai who founded the Green Belt Movement. This environmental organisation works with communities, particularly women, to look after the environment and improve people's lives.



In keeping with the Nat Geo Kids mission, this book is full of practical, positive, and powerful ideas that every kid can consider, from simple acts of kindness to creative adventures to good-for-the-planet projects. Ideas are presented as simple concepts with engaging graphics and photographs, and many are followed by detailed supporting information. Kids get a sense of their own power to make a difference and an understanding of what actions contribute to positive outcomes.



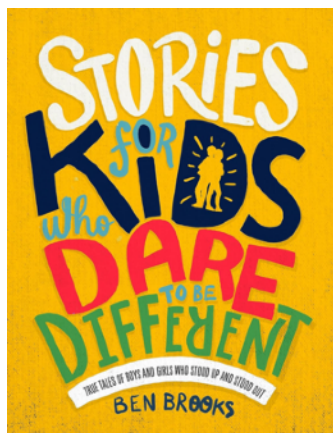
# BOOKS FOR *KS2*



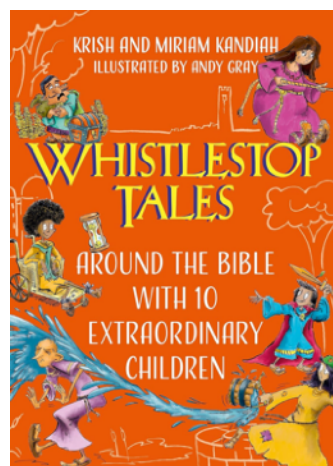
This fantastic book about people and places is packed with original photography of children, their friends and family, home and school. It vividly illustrates different cultures around the world, from rural farms to busy cities. It is a celebration of children - a celebration of their similarities and of their differences. It's an important book for our times.



Since she was a toddler, Sofia has wanted to help people. With her beloved Abuelo she happily whisks round her neighbourhood, raking leaves, pet-walking, delivering treats. But when her Abuelo trips and hurts himself on a local landfill, Sofia decides to aim her acts of kindness a little higher... a project that sees her adopt the mantle of Eco-Activist and Community Advocate, roles which take her all the way to City Hall. Fun inspiration for budding activists-in-the-making.



These are the extraordinary stories of 100 famous and not-so-famous men and women, every single one of them an inspiring pioneer and creative genius in their own way, who broke the mould and made their dreams come true. This book is beautifully illustrated, evocative and inspirational book of amazing stories of amazing people, that will delight sons and daughters, nephews and nieces, and give them the courage to be themselves.



These ten fun and engaging stories show how the unlikeliest of children made their mark on the world in surprising ways. This book will inspire children to think big and believe in themselves.

# Know your rights



All children have rights and also the right to know their rights. Which do you know? On this poster you will find all the rights that apply to you and all other children in the world. These rights are stated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It states what every child should have or be able to do.

1 -18 DEFINITION OF A CHILD	2 NO DISCRIMINATION	3 BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD	4 MAKING RIGHTS REAL	5 FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP	6 LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT	7 NAME AND NATIONALITY	8 IDENTITY
9 KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER	10 CONTACT WITH PARENTS ACROSS COUNTRIES	11 PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING	12 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS	13 SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY	14 FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION	15 SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS	16 PROTECTION OF PRIVACY
17 ACCESS TO INFORMATION	18 RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS	19 PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE	20 CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES	21 CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED	22 REFUGEE CHILDREN	23 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	24 HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT
25 REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT	26 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP	27 FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME	28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION	29 AIMS OF EDUCATION	30 MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION	31 REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS	32 PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK
33 PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS	34 PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE	35 PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING	36 PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION	37 CHILDREN IN DETENTION	38 PROTECTION IN WAR	39 RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION	40 CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW
41 BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES	42 EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS	43-54 HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS	<h2>CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD</h2>				



# EMPATHY WEEK

The Great Big Live Assembly is delighted to promote Empathy Week - an award-winning, annual schools event that uses the power of film, education and storytelling events to develop empathy in students.

Since 2020, Empathy Week has engaged 175,000+ students (aged 5-18) in over 40 countries. This year it will be held from 26th February to 1st March 2024 offering a week-long, free, festival of webinars, films, resources and events that can help develop the skill of empathy in students aged 5-18 years old.

**The 2024 theme:** In 2024 Empathy Week is diving deep into the theme of 'Home', exploring important social issues such as the refugee crisis, homelessness, nationality, religion, and fostering positive relationships.


**In-person experiences:** Empathy Week hopes to bring more workshops and events in 2024 that are beyond the curriculum and *beyond* fun!

**Online Opportunities:** Age-differentiated webinars, assemblies and events will allow for students, teachers and parents to learn from inspiring speakers and participate in live Q&As.

**Professional Growth:** There'll also be fantastic opportunities for adult learning and professional development, including free CPD training.

**Now Free for All Schools:** That's right, Empathy Week 2024 is FREE for all schools. So spread the word!

**REGISTER TODAY** at <https://www.empathy-week.com/> and join the mission to build the #EmpathyGeneration.



**EMPATHY WEEK** 2024  
26th February - 1st March

**IT'S BACK**  
**JOIN US FOR 2024**

**NOW FREE FOR ALL SCHOOLS**  
[www.empathy-week.com](http://www.empathy-week.com)



**EMPATHY WEEK** 2024  
26th February - 1st March

**CREATE UNSTOPPABLE**  
**CLASSROOM**  
**RELATIONSHIPS**

**NOW FREE FOR ALL SCHOOLS**  
[www.empathy-week.com](http://www.empathy-week.com)



# FEEDBACK

Many thanks for joining us this year. We would greatly value your feedback as we plan three brand new Great Big Live Assemblies for 2024.

[You can fill in the feedback form here.](#)

