

# CARING DURING CORONAVIRUS

## Primary Assembly

### AIMS

- To learn how The Salvation Army helped during the pandemic
- To reflect on the meaning of the rainbow
- To consider how we can help others

### BIBLE PHRASE

'I will bless you with a future filled with hope - a future of success, not of suffering.'  
Jeremiah 29:11 (CEV)

### RESOURCES

- PowerPoint presentation - amend to include photos from your local area
- The song 'Over the rainbow' by Judy Garland or Israel 'IZ' Kamakawiwo'ole

### Optional resources

- Rainbow cards, printed  
*(You may wish to attach a loop of string on each card, so pupils wear these over their heads)*
- Rainbow challenge  
*(Give or email to teachers)*
- Rainbow sticker  
*(Use image to make your own stickers)*

*Play the song 'Over the rainbow' as pupils enter the assembly.*

### INTRODUCTION

*Introduce yourself and welcome pupils to assembly.*

#### Slide 1

Did you hear the song as you came in to assembly? You may have heard it before or recognised it. Did any of the lyrics in the song stand out to you? Do you remember any of the words? ***(Take a few responses.)***

The song is called 'Over the rainbow'. The singer is thinking about a happier place and a better time - a place that isn't here, but over there, somewhere else.

**Click to reveal phrase.** One line that sticks out to me is 'Where trouble melts like lemon drops'. It's partly because I like lemony sweets that melt and fizz in my mouth. But also it's because this new place sounds so peaceful, there are no troubles or difficulties, all our troubles have just fizzled away and disappeared. How wonderful that place must be!

#### Slide 2

Do you know the colours of the rainbow? And the order they come in? ***(Take a few responses.)***

#### Optional Game

*If there is time, you may wish to play a game with seven volunteers at the front, each holding or wearing a coloured card. The aim is to get the seven pupils in the correct rainbow order. Pupils say which two colours should swap positions; only two colours can move at any time. When the order is correct, the volunteers flip the cards, revealing ROYGBIV.*

#### Slide 3

There are lots of ways to try and remember the colours - through songs, and special phrases or names. ROYGBIV are the initials of the colours of the rainbow, in the correct order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo (a dark blue), and violet (a purple).



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When we see a rainbow it often makes us smile. Do you know when we do see rainbows? (*Take a response.*) We usually see them after it rains, and the sun is shining again, or when it's raining and the sun is shining at the same time.

We have been seeing rainbows in lots of other places lately, like in windows! Put your hand up if you've spotted pictures of rainbows in windows. Where else have you seen rainbow pictures displayed? (*Take a few responses.*) Did you put a rainbow picture in your window? Why did you do that? (*Take a few responses.*)

### Slide 4

Children all around the UK and all around the world have been making rainbow pictures to show support for the people who have been working during the pandemic, people like the NHS nurses and doctors and other key workers. It has helped people to feel encouraged and supported during a really tough time.

### MAIN TALK

#### Slide 5

One organisation which was working during the pandemic was The Salvation Army. As a church and a charity, its church leaders and workers are classed as key workers. They have a responsibility to support others in our community, supporting physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Today we are going to learn about some of the things The Salvation Army did to help others during the pandemic - and the rainbow is going to help us!

#### Slide 6

*Encourage the pupils to complete the phrase together: R is for ...*

**Slide 7** Red - and rough sleepers and runners!

People who live and sleep on the streets are sometimes called rough sleepers. During the pandemic our drop-in centres had to close. So we brought the drop-in centres to the streets, to give people advice, help and support. Our churches opened up to help provide safe, warm places to sleep. And we keep on campaigning to put an end to rough sleeping, so everyone has a place to stay.

Runners are some of the people who fundraise for us. Even though many events were cancelled, they still kept supporting us and raising money, like Kelly who is blind. (*Image: bottom right.*)

**Slides 8 & 9** O is for ... Orange - and online!

During the pandemic many of us felt like we lived our lives online for a while! A lot of our services moved online, like debt advice, counselling and job support.

Even our church went online. We kept people connected through online worship, music, singing and even coffee mornings with cake! Like officer Elaine whose virtual coffee mornings had people aged from 20-70 joining in to share memories of happier times - along with laughter.



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**Slides 10 & 11** Y is for ... Yellow - and young people!

Our children and youth groups still met and had fun and games - they just met up online. We helped families get school uniforms and laptops. We gave meals to families in the holidays to combat holiday hunger. An online youth mentoring project taught new skills like game design and animation, and also gave a safe space for young people to talk through anything that was troubling them. And some young people were fundraising, like Ellie and Eloise, who did 26 challenges over 26 days! (*Image: bottom right.*)

**Slides 12 & 13** G is for ... Green - and giving!

We gave a lot of things to people, like food and supplies. And for families who were struggling, toys at Christmas. When one man asked for food that didn't need cooking, we discovered he had no way to cook food and had been eating cold food for 27 years! And so we also gave him a microwave. (And some extra help too.)

**Slides 14 & 15** B is for ... Blue - and brews and breakfasts!

A brew is another name for a tea, a mug of tea. Tea is a popular drink we serve from our emergency vans who go out to support emergency workers, or to people in an emergency like floods or being stranded. We've been helping key workers and NHS staff from our vans too. The van is a place for food, but it also gives the emergency workers a safe space, a place for listening and comfort - and of course, a cup of tea!

We've been helping make sure children have been getting a good start to the day by giving out breakfasts. The demand for breakfasts in one area doubled in six weeks, so we were feeding 390 children in a week.

**Slides 16, 17 & 18** I is for ... Indigo - and international!

All over the world we have been helping people with food parcels and support to deal with the pandemic, just like in the UK and Ireland. We have also been giving people the information and resources they need to keep themselves safe. And our work with education, healthcare, emergency and disaster response still carried on.

In some countries we also provide medical care, like clinics and hospitals, and have been treating people with coronavirus - like this one in India, where patients also receive a welcome package of extra food, drink and toiletries as they can't receive items from home, to keep them safe. (*Slide 18 image: bottom right.*)



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**Slides 19 & 20** V is for ... Violet - volunteers, visitors and vaccines!

Our volunteers have been vital, helping to make and distribute food parcels and helping others. They've been visiting the elderly and vulnerable in our communities to make sure they have everything they need - and a friendly chat! And helping with the vaccine roll-out by using our churches as vaccine centres.

### CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

#### Slide 21

The rainbow colours have helped tell the story of some of the things The Salvation Army did during the pandemic. There are many possible reasons that a rainbow has been used as a symbol during the pandemic.

In the Bible a rainbow appears after a great big flood. Christians believe the rainbow represented God's promise that things will be better; it is a promise of hope for better times.

**Click to reveal phrase.** In the Bible God promises better times: 'I will bless you with a future filled with hope - a future of success, not of suffering.' (Jeremiah 29:11CEV)

### SALVATION ARMY PERSPECTIVE

#### Slide 22

As a Christian church, The Salvation Army is committed to making that promise come true, by helping people now and to make this a fairer world. We don't want to wait for a magical place somewhere elsewhere, 'over the rainbow'. We want the better times to be here and now. To bring the rainbow here where we all live.

### CHALLENGE AND REFLECTION

#### SLIDE 23

What can you do to make things better for others? How can you help bring a future filled with hope?  
What can you do to bring the rainbow here and now?

Take a moment to reflect; be inspired by each colour of the rainbow. Can you think of one thing you can do to help others, starting with that letter?

*Pause for a short reflection time.*

*Thank the pupils and staff for letting you be a part of their assembly.*

*Play the music as they leave.*

#### SLIDE 24

End slide

### ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Give or email the Rainbow challenge to teachers, to share with their pupils.
- Make your own stickers to give to pupils as they leave assembly by pasting the Rainbow sticker image on to a labels sheet.

