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PIECE OF THE PUZZLE assembly

Following lockdown, your pupils and staff may feel like their school community is a bit fragmented.

It is natural, in the circumstances, for some people to feel slightly anxious about returning to school or coping with the changes to school routine.

This assembly and associated [activity pack](#), should support the children to feel a sense of belonging and understand their place in the school, hopefully bringing a renewed feeling of unity and community along with positivity about being back at school.

If you deliver this assembly virtually, we'd suggest that you take out the interactive element of question and answer.

Assembly plan



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Equipment needed:

- laptop screen showing a jigsaw, for example this [CBBC](#) one, or a prepared jigsaw with most of the pieces in place
- [blank paper jigsaw pieces](#) from the activity pack
- a flipchart or board to stick them on.

Greet the children as they join you for the assembly. Welcome the children back to school, spending a minute or two talking positively about the term ahead. If the assembly isn't virtual, ask the children some of the hobbies they have been enjoying at home over the summer and lockdown period.

Tell the children that you have been working on one of your hobbies and show them the jigsaw (screen share if you're delivering it virtually). Ask the children to raise their hand if they also enjoy doing jigsaw puzzles, and if there is time ask them why they enjoy it.

Explain that while completing jigsaws over lockdown, you realised that the school and its community of parents and carers, volunteers and helpers is much like a jigsaw. *Can any of you think why I might believe our school is like a jigsaw puzzle?*

Allow the children time to discuss and feedback some answers. If they are not sure, perhaps prompt by holding up some of the individual pieces. *What can I notice about each piece of the puzzle?*

Each piece is colourful, interesting, challenging and unique with its cut-out bits and bobbles, and different parts of a picture on it. Each jigsaw piece has its place in the picture and without it that picture would not be complete.

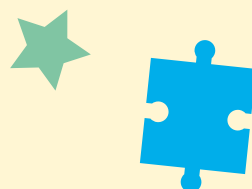
Explain that each piece of the jigsaw puzzle is like a different person in the school. Each person in our school is unique and wonderful, you might have a different hair colour, or different favourite hobbies, or different roles in the school. But just like the jigsaw, we all fit together in our school community to make it whole.

Ask the children to name someone in the school community and their unique role e.g. the welfare officer helps you when you are ill, the eco council make sure the school is being sustainable.

For each idea, write or draw on a jigsaw piece and stick it to the board. Try and encourage the children to think of those in the wider school community as well as the teachers and students e.g. parents and carers, the crossing guard, volunteers, sports coaches, learning mentors etc.

Final thoughts:

Remind the children that each and every one of them is also unique and wonderful. They each bring something special to the school community with their personality and talents and without them the school would be missing an important piece.



Piece of the puzzle

Name: _____ Date: _____

