

LEARNING INTENTION: How loss can bring about change for people.

Using the story below, which focuses on saying 'goodbye' encourage the children to reflect on feelings of loss.

"But why, Miss Day? Why are you leaving us?" asked lots of the children in year 5. Miss Day had just told them that she was going to be married in the summer holidays and would be going with her husband to live in Kenya in Africa. First, they had been stunned into silence, and then Miss Day was flooded with a barrage of questions. "Who will teach us? What about the football team next year? Will you come back to us? Is Africa hot? Will you be there for ever? Are you going to teach children? Can we still go on our school trip? You are the best teacher we've ever had. We like you and we want you to stay in our school."

Miss Day told year 6 about how she and her husband-to-be wanted to spend the first two years of their life together in Kenya teaching children there. Year 5 made a card for Miss Day for her wedding to say "Goodbye and Good Luck" to her. They held a collection and bought some books for her to take to her new school. Now they are year 6, but they still keep in touch. They email Mrs Jordan, as she is now, and she skypes them from Kenya. She told them that when she uses the books that they gave her, she always thinks of them. However, there's no one to take the football team, though they still play in the school playground. Year 6 miss their special friend-teacher. They have photographs of her with the team and with the class.

Everyone has to deal with loss and change in their lives at some point. You may move to a new house, class, or new school. You may get a new teacher. Maybe an older brother or sister leaves home to go to university or get married. There are often goodbyes. Losses will always involve a change in life. Change can mean growth and development, as when people move to another school, make new friends and learn different subjects.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD AFTER THE STORY:

- Q** Can you think of a time when you have had to say goodbye to someone knowing that you may never see them again? How did this make you feel?
- Q** What losses have you had in your ordinary everyday life?
- Q** How did these affect you?
- Q** What changes did they bring?
- Q** What things remained the same?
- Q** What do you find is the best way to cope with loss?

Task:

- With your child, talk about a friend or relative who has moved away, or a teacher they once had. Interview your child using the following questions to help the discussion.
 - Who was it?
 - What do you remember about them?
 - What keepsakes/memories do you have of them?
 - How did you feel when they left?
 - What did you do?
 - What or who helped you cope?
 - In what ways did it change you?
 - In what ways are they still 'there' for you?