

The birthday of the NHS

5 July

1. As the pupils enter

Have the [webpage open](#). Play any music and display the NHS image.

2. Introduction

Draw pupils' attention to the image. Describe how the letters 'NHS' are just three letters, but that they are very important letters - because the letters have been with us for over 75 years now and it is likely that everyone in the room will depend on the letters NHS at some point in their lives.

Ask the (rhetorical) question: *But what do the letters NHS actually mean?* Explain that everyone is going to watch a short animation about a boy called Krish who has been spending some time in hospital. Krish is better now and his mum has arrived to take him home. But before he leaves Krish too would like to know what the letters 'NHS' mean.

3. Play the video

Duration: 3' 52". Final words: "...to show my friends my cast!"

4. Time to talk

Lead a discussion by asking some or all of the following questions:

- *Having watched the video, what do the letters NHS mean?* ('National Health Service' - you may choose to unpack the name by explaining that 'National' comes from 'Nation' - meaning the whole country - and that a 'service' is something that is given or provided. 5 July is a day to celebrate the birthday of the NHS - because it was founded on 5 July 1948)
- *How does the nurse in the video say the NHS is paid for?* (By taxation. You could follow up by asking whether pupils can think of any other things that are paid for by taxation - eg schools, transport, other forms of care, etc)
- *Can you remember some of the people who help Krish in the video and some of the other important people who help to run hospitals?* (Paramedics, doctors, nurses, cooks, porters, cleaners. You could follow up by emphasising that many different people with lots of different skills come together to make the NHS work)
- *Why do you think it's important that we celebrate the work of the people who make up the NHS?*



Webpage with video

5. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song. Suggestions on the webpage.

6. Opportunity to reflect

Sit quietly as we think now about the letters 'NHS' and why those letters are so important... Sometimes when we get ill, or we are hurt, we will need to see a doctor and perhaps even spend some time in hospital... When that happens we want to know that there is someone who will look after us...and make us better again...

The NHS helps to look after the people of this country - whether young or old... or rich or poor. Think quietly to yourself about what it feels like when you need help...and someone then gives you the help that you need...

7. Opportunity for prayer

Follow your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Dear Lord', 'Let us pray', etc) with:

Thank you that when we are hurt or unwell there is someone there to help us get better again.

Help us to be grateful for the many different people around us who help us every day.

Let us remember how good it feels to be helped, so that we too make sure we offer our help to others. Amen.