

Rosh Hashanah

1. As pupils enter

Have the webpage open. Play your chosen music and display the focus image if you wish.

2. Introduction

Begin by wishing everyone a 'Happy New Year!' Allow a moment for the assembly to feel bemused before going on to explain that 1 January is just one of many new year celebrations. For example, Chinese (Lunar) New Year can fall in either January or February. And there's another new year - the Jewish New Year, called *Rosh Hashanah* - which is celebrated in the Autumn at about this time of year. Tell everyone that they are going to watch a short video in which a Jewish boy called Charlie will explain what happens at Rosh Hashanah and why the festival is important to him, his family and community.

3. Play the video

The duration is 3' 06". The final words are: '...would be a good one.'

4. After the video - Time to talk

You could begin by asking the Video questions (see web page) to aid recall of the film and comprehension of it. Then lead a discussion by focusing on what Charlie says at the end of the film. You may wish to repeat some of his words beforehand: *You can worry a lot that you might not be forgiven. It's also good, because then you know what to do good next year and what not to do. After I feel very happy, definitely that a weight has been lifted off my shoulders, and just look forward to the next year which hopefully will be a good one.*

Then ask the following:

- How does it feel to be forgiven?
- Can you think of a time when you've forgiven someone?
- Do you think it's right that we try to find forgiveness? Why?

5. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

Play video



6. Opportunity to reflect

At the end of the video today Charlie described how having forgiveness was like 'lifting a weight off his shoulders'...

Saying 'sorry' can often seem really hard to do...

Sometimes we're slow to apologise, even when we know we should...

Think to yourself about an occasion when someone has said sorry to you...

Or when you've said sorry to someone else...

How did it feel? Was it like having a weight lifted from your shoulders..?

If there's someone you should say sorry to perhaps today can be the day you do it.

7. Opportunity for prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the exciting times each new year brings.

Help each of us to care for one another and to treat others as we ourselves wish to be treated.

And to remember that forgiveness can be like lifting a weight from our shoulders.

Amen.