



What's going on this week?

Hospital units that treat children and very sick babies are having to shut their doors temporarily to new patients because they are very short of specialist staff, a new report reveals. Widespread shortages of children's doctors and nurses also means that the care children receive is being put at risk, according to the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. The main reasons given are due to our increasing population and reduced funding provided to local services and hospitals.

Main question:
Are our hospitals too busy?

Listen, think, share

Ask the children about their experiences of hospitals. When did they first experience one (likely to be when they were born!)? Talk through all the times we may use hospitals and doctors, talk about when we have immunisations, hearing tests, when we have accidents or have very high temperatures – there are many times we use our health services! Ask the children if they know the name of our health service that provides all of this? Explain that our NHS (National Health Service) is a free service for all UK citizens and covers all our health care at no cost, however much we need it. Explain that, most likely, we will all use the NHS at some point during our lives and it is a vital and lifesaving service. Tell the children it has been in the news a lot recently – does anyone know why? Explain that many people feel (including the staff that work there) that our health service is under a lot of pressure and that there aren't enough doctors and nurses working to help with the increasing numbers of patients.

Ask children why they think this has become a problem? What might some of the causes be? Discuss the UK population steadily increasing, people are living longer, hospitals are understaffed and people using the wrong services (i.e. visiting emergency services for a minor complaint). Although lots of these factors are beyond our control, ask the children if they think there is anything we can do to help? Talk about how knowing more about who to see when and using information wisely we can help with getting access to the right services much quicker! Using the Assembly Resource talk through the services the NHS offer and then discuss which would be the most appropriate course of action for each of the 3 people.

Reflection

At times, we may feel frustrated having to wait to see a doctor or need to join a waiting list to receive medical help, but it is important to remember that our NHS provides a completely free service that helps us from the day we are born right the way through our lives. This is something that people in many other countries don't have access to and something we must be very thankful for!

This week...

We will make sure that when we or a family member needs to use our health service we will do our very best to use the right service at the right time and be thankful for the free service our wonderful doctors, nurses and other medical professions provide!



KS1 Focus

Question:
Where do we go when we are ill or injured?

Listen, think, share

Ask the children to recall times they may have been ill or injured in an accident. Talk about what happened, who helped them? Did they need to go to hospital or to see a doctor? How did they help make you better? Talk about when we go to see a doctor and when we go to the hospital and talk about what the difference between visiting the doctor for an appointment and visiting a hospital in an emergency. Ask the children if they've had to wait to see the doctor, talk about how it doesn't cost us anything to visit the doctor but they have lots of people to help! Talk about how when there is an emergency we are prioritised. In these cases, why is it important we are seen straight away?

Look at the KS1 Resource and talk through the timeline from when they are born until when they are old. Talk about where we go if we are feeling unwell and where we would go if we have an accident or emergency. Discuss all the times that we use our hospitals and doctors – right from when we are born, to when we have accidents and they are likely to be helping our elderly relatives a lot too! Ask the children to recall and share their own experiences of people helping them when they have been ill or injured.

Reflection

When we are ill or injured, we have a lot of different people we are able to see, from doctors and nurses to people who can x-ray our bones to those who drive ambulances. They are all providing a service that we are lucky to have that cares about keeping us well!

This week...

We will think about all the times that our hospitals and doctors have helped us and make sure we are thankful next time we visit them.



KS2 Focus

Question:
Who are the people behind our NHS?

Listen, think, share

Ask the children the last time they went to see a doctor or went to a hospital. What was it for? Can they recall some of the different types of people who worked there and what their roles were? If possible, watch the visual guide created by Junior Doctors (see useful videos) and talk through the details provided looking at amount of people who work for the NHS and the vital work that they undertake that often goes unnoticed.

Look at the KS2 Resource considering an injury and an illness, talk through what would happen in each situation from getting initial help to making a recovery or any ongoing treatment required. Using the boxes that consider some of the NHS workers' roles, think about all the people who would help in both instances. Can the children think of any other people that they may have come across? Ask the children to recall any people from their own experience of hospital or doctor visits – how did they help us and what made them stand out?

Explain that the NHS is a vital service that helps us all in so many different ways and many of their workers work incredibly long hours, often through the night and often people are working in roles behind the scenes. Next time we are in a hospital or doctor's surgery – have a look around at all the different workers!

Reflection

The NHS is often thought to be primarily made up of doctors and nurses but there are hundreds of different roles that NHS workers can undertake that are vital to the running of our healthcare. All of these people play a vital part and without them we wouldn't be able to receive the care that we need whatever our situation.

This week...

We will make a list of all of the things the NHS has done for us to help us remain healthy and think of all the different crucial roles and people involved, often working behind the scenes, and be thankful for their work.



KS2 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Ask the children to think of a time they used our NHS. Who did they see? What happened? How did they help you? Plan and write a letter to somebody in the NHS to thank them for their help. Consider the structure, use of connectives, ambitious vocabulary and varying sentence types.

Maths: Ask the children to think about all the ways maths is needed in a hospital and how vital it is. Reading charts, taking temperatures, taking measurements (heartbeats, height, weight), administering medication etc. Ask the children to measure their own height, weight, pulse rate, head circumference, forearm length etc. Share and compare results.

Science/ICT: Ask the children to think about how our body works. Think about the skeleton and the function of it. Discuss what our bones and muscles do. Children could research about the human body and create a human body quiz using a suitable ICT program for classmates to answer.

History: Compare hospitals today with a Victorian hospital. Think about why Victorian hospitals were actually the cause of the spread of disease and often wards were overcrowded often with poorer people having to use them.

MFL: Use your School's MFL to create a conversation between a patient and a doctor. Ask the children to work in pairs to greet one another then ask for help.

Art: X-ray art! Use black card. Ask the children to place their hand on the card then spatter white paint. Remove their hand and wash it then use white straws or white crayons to draw in the bones.



KS1 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Reinforce that the people in the NHS are there to help us when we are poorly or injured. Ask the children to think about a time they went to the hospital or doctors. Share with a partner. Create a class word list to describe their experience e.g. help, kind, hurt, worried, cried, sticker. Use the word list to record their hospital/doctor visit in sentences.

Maths: Explain that often when we are poorly, our temperature is taken. If possible, use temperature strips to measure and read the children's temperatures. Explain that temperature is measured in degrees Celsius (°C) and that normal body temperature is 37°C.

Science: Ask the children to name parts of their body. What is the function of certain parts? What do our eyes, ears, mouth all do? Draw and label parts on a human diagram.

Role Play: Create a Doctor's Surgery or a Hospital. It may be possible to arrange a visit from somebody involved in the NHS to talk to the children about what they do and answer any questions.

History: Show the children a picture of Florence Nightingale. Ask the children if they know who she is. Explain she was famous for her nursing during the Crimean War. Use useful websites section to share more about her.

MFL: Ask the children to use your School's MFL to say they are poorly or that a certain body part hurts.

DT: Make a split pin skeleton.



This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story
<http://bit.ly/2pqrzqC>

NHS: Services Explained
<http://bit.ly/2qjGlaw>

Florence Nightingale
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primary/history/famouspeople/florence_nightingale/



This Week's Useful Videos

The NHS: A visual guide
<http://bit.ly/2pqhKco>