**Circle time **

**Possible conversation starters**

**Past**

1. Lockdown was a time that no-one predicted, what were your first feelings when you knew you couldn’t go to school or even go outside your home or garden except for a walk? Did your feelings change overtime?

2. Many of you have favourite places you like to visit, which special places did you miss visiting and why?

3. Some people made running tracks in their gardens, some people created a beach with sand and water in their gardens. Were there any places you couldn’t visit that you reconstructed in your own home? How did that help you?

4. Nobody was able to visit family or friends who lived in a different household. Who did you miss the most? What did you miss about this person?

5. While we were all at home many of us discovered new interests or developed new skills? What new interests or skills did you discover while you were learning or playing at home?

7. Were there any moments that you felt sad, lonely or worried during the lockdown? How did you manage to deal with these feelings and moments?

8. What was the happiest moment you experienced during your time at home?

9. Who celebrated a birthday whilst at home? How did you celebrate it? How was this different to last year?

10. At 8pm every Thursday many people clapped for the NHS and Keyworkers to say Thank You. Did you join in? What you think of this gesture of appreciation? What other ways did people show their appreciation?

12. Many children drew rainbows and placed them in windows to inspire people and remind everyone that we were all in this together. Were there any ways that you helped to encourage and inspire people to be strong together?

13. Many people found this time very difficult, was there anything you did to help a friend or member of your family?

14. How did your family communicate with friends and other members of your family? What did you enjoy or find helpful about these new ways of communicating?

15. Laughter helps people feel happy and included, what was your funniest moment during this time? What new jokes did you learn? What is your ‘happy story’?

16. Lots of people had time to read more books than they usually would. Which books did you read? Many teachers and celebrities read stories to children using online technology, if you were able to listen to any, which were your favourite?

17. There were many online quizzes and games for families to take part in. As a family/friends which online activities did you participate in? Which non online games did you enjoy playing as a family?

**Present**

1. How are you feeling about being back in school? In school routine? With your friends and teachers? In uniform?
2. Today you are back at school. Take a moment to think about where you are at this particular moment. Maybe you are joining in Circle Time. Maybe you are in your classroom, maybe you are outside or perhaps in the hall. Just think about now, where you are, who is with you and how you really feel
3. What have you missed about being in school that you would like to do during the next week?
4. What questions do you have about being back in school? Being here today?
5. What do you think you have learned about yourself and the world which you didn’t know when we were all in school together before?
6. How have you changed and grown as a person since you were in school before the school closure.
7. You may have been learning at home with the guidance your parents, did you make have a visual timetable? What lessons did you decide to do? If you could use your home learning experience to devise a visual timetable for your class, what lessons/ learning quests would be on it?
8. How do you feel about restarting school at this time of the academic year?
9. Are there any year groups that have not started back at school yet? Why do you think this is? How is this fair? What is the thinking behind this decision?
10. Now you can see your friends again and play in the outside environment, what kind of rules should we have to still keep everyone safe? Which games could be adapted to allow children their personal space? Can you devise /make up a new game?

**Future**

1. There may be family and friends you still have not been able to see in person. What are looking forward to saying to them / doing with them when you can meet up again?
2. Many of you will have favourite places you like to go, which you haven’t been able to visit. What will you do when you can visit them again?
3. Many children have an idea of the job or career they would like to aim for when they leave education, has school closure made you change your mind about your future job? Have any of the recent events inspired you to choose a different career?
4. What do you hope we will do together at school next week? Next term?
5. What school events are you looking forward to now you are back at school? Should we still have Sport’s day/School Discos/Summer Fayres? How can we adapt events that involve lots of people?

**Warm up and Ending games**

1. The lining up game

Without help, the children need to line up quickly in: register order, birthday month order…

2. Clapping

Going round the circle one clap continues the direction, 2 changes the direction back.

3. Simon Says

4. Birthdays

Call a month of the year, children whose birthdays are in that month, run around the circle back to their original chair.

5. Smile

A smile is passed around the circle.

6. Expressive Face

Children cover their face with their hands. Teacher says an expression / emotion (e.g. smile, frown, laugh, confused, thoughtful…). Children remove their hands to show the expression / emotion. Look at each other’s faces: how easy is it to ‘read emotions’?

7. 99

A child leaves the room while someone is nominated. When the child enters the room they stand in the middle of the circle, the nominated child says ‘99’, trying to disguise their voice. The first child tries to guess who spoke.

8. Chinese mimes

All stand facing the back of the person in front, with eyes closed. The leader taps the person in front on the shoulder, when they turn around mime an action. The mime is passed around the circle to see if it changes much.

9. Follow the leader

The leader begins miming and action; clapping, etc. the others in the circle must copy. Change leader after 2 or 3 actions.

10. Introductions

Introduce yourself and the person sitting next to you. Continue around the circle.

11. Instrumental listening

Have 5 numbered instruments. One member of circle plays one and the rest have to raise the number of fingers linked to instrument played.

12. Colours

If I were a colour, I would be … because…

13. Storm

Leader starts by wiggling fingers for the rain, this passes around the circle until everyone is wiggling their fingers. The leader then changes the action to other aspects of the storm, e.g. wind – arms waving, thunder – slap knees. End with the sun - mime a circle.

14. Fruitbowl

Pupils split into oranges, lemons and apples. When their group name is said they must stand and walk across the inside of the circle to find an empty seat. Everyone must have a new seat. If “Fruitbowl” is called out, everyone must move.

15. Changes

Someone goes outside, 2 people in the circle swap places, and the outsider tries to guess who has moved.

16. Building community

Say ‘come into the circle if you… (have long hair, wear glasses)’ continue until most in circle, end with ‘come into the circle if you are in class…’ All shout ‘We are!’

17. Hello, how are you?

One child crosses the circle to elbow bump and ask a question, then returns to their place. The questioned child then crosses the circle.

18. Emotional entrance

One person leaves the room and then returns acting out an emotional as they return to their seat. Rest of class try to interpret the emotion.

19. Keys

One child stands in the middle of the circle blindfolded. The other children pass something noisy around the circle. When the child in the middle thinks they know where the keys are they shout ‘stop!’ and point in that direction.

20. I know your name

Take turns to call someone’s name and swap seats, continue until everyone has been called.

21. What am I?

Choose a positive adjective to describe yourself, go around the circle in turn.

22. Actions story

Share a story with agreed actions for certain words. Everyone has to make the action when the words are said.

23. Mirrors

In pairs A/B A is the leader, B is the mirror and must copy the actions, go slowly at first. Swap roles.

24. Dodgems

Pupils stand in the circle and move around not touching anyone else / furniture. On a whistle they have to go in the opposite / change direction.