



## Above & Beyond: Queen's Platinum Jubilee Assembly Celebration

**Theme:** A special assembly that can be used as a 'one off' or as part of the Above & Beyond series celebrating the life and work of Queen Elizabeth II in her 70<sup>th</sup> year of reign. Children will be encouraged to recognise people in their lives who have gone above and beyond and explore ways to show our appreciation and gratitude to them.

**Resources:** Selection of Photos of the Queen

**Introduction:** Our assembly theme for this term is 'Above and Beyond'. People often use this expression to say how someone has exceeded their expectations, perhaps a person has gone beyond the call of duty in performing their job or maybe someone has pushed themselves to do or achieve something better than they could have hoped for. Today we are going to think about some of the people in our lives who have gone 'above and beyond' for us!

Can you think of someone in your life who has done something special for you, or who has helped you in particular way? *Take some responses from the children and be prepared to share an example of your own.*

People are amazing! There are lots of people who go 'above and beyond'.

**Game:** Guess Who?

Our game today is 'Guess Who?' I'm going to give you some clues to help you identify a mystery person who I believe has gone above and beyond.

- Clue 1: This person started work at 25 years of age
- Clue 2: This person trained to be a mechanic and military truck driver (part of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service for World War II).
- Clue 3: This person was born on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1926 (but celebrates their official birthday this year on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June).
- Clue 4: This person likes to go on holiday to Scotland.
- Clue 5: This person is the only person allowed to drive without a driver's license in the UK.
- Clue 6: This person's favourite dogs are Corgis. (They have owned over 30).
- Clue 7: This person has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.
- Clue 8: This person has sent around 50,000 Christmas cards
- Clue 9: This person lives in Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace
- Clue 10: This person is celebrating her Platinum (70<sup>th</sup>) Jubilee this year!

Yes! Its... Her Majesty ...Queen Elizabeth II (reveal picture). The Queen is the longest reigning monarch ever in Britain and we are now celebrating her 70<sup>th</sup> year of being on the throne.

**Main Content:** The job of being a King or Queen is very special and quite unique. The Queen has undoubtedly gone above and beyond in all aspects of her reign, both in carrying out her duties and responsibilities to the British Commonwealth and in terms of the length of service, commitment and sacrifice she has given.

**Did you know?** (Show photos) The Queen wasn't supposed to have become queen at all. Born in 1926, Elizabeth was the daughter of King George V's second son, and had little expectation of succeeding to the throne until her uncle, King Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 to marry an American called Wallis Simpson. After the death of her father, King George VI, Elizabeth was called on to become Queen at the age of 25.

Her coronation ceremony held at Westminster Abbey on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953 was the first to be broadcast live on television. Some 27 million people in the UK watched it, and 11 million more listened to it on the radio.

Throughout her reign the Queen has kept to a very busy schedule of duties, visiting many people, countries, events, services, and royal engagements during times of trouble and celebration. The Queen acts as a Patron to more than 600 charities and organisations across the UK and the Commonwealth. The Queen is Head of the Armed Forces. She receives over 300 letters from the public every day, and she makes it her personal mission to choose a few which she would like to reply to each morning (the ones she doesn't have time to reply to personally are answered by a lady-in-waiting). Once the letters are dealt with, she then opens the contents of the famous 'Red Boxes' full of important official government papers and letters which The Queen must read, approve, and sign. She is Supreme Governor of the Church of England and has a strong personal Christian faith which she often talks about in her encouraging Christmas Day speech each year.

She has also been a loyal and devoted wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. She has a great love for her family, horses, and dogs!

During her coronation the Queen swore an oath - that is, she made a lifelong promise to govern her people and to uphold the laws of God and the Church. As she knelt down at the altar of Westminster Abbey, with her right hand on a bible she said, "The things which I have here before me promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God." She has kept her promise all these years!

In her 2002 Christmas broadcast the Queen said, "Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God".

What a wonderful example to us all!

**Pupil Response:** How do you think the Queen has gone above and beyond?

- Kept the promise she made
- Took on the role of Queen even though she wasn't expecting it
- Served for 70 years
- Always trying to help and support people
- She tries to be her best self
- Asks for help, from God and others

**Reflection:** When someone has gone above and beyond our expectations it's worth celebrating and showing our gratitude to them.

How might you celebrate the Queen's Jubilee?

At the beginning of our assembly, you thought about someone in your life who has gone above and beyond for you. How might you celebrate and show them your gratitude and appreciation? (*A thank you card, a gift, say thank you, pray for them, thank God for them, throw a party!*)

Christians believe that God created each one of us and He knows everything about us. He knows what we are capable of, and what inspires us to do things. It's not necessarily what we do that's important but the attitude with which we do things.

Are we able to go above and beyond by showing love to one another in all that we do and by being our best self in everything we do so that we can help to change the world for the better!?

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for our Queen. Thank you for the promise she has kept, faithfully serving our country and the commonwealth for 70 years. Thank you too for all the people in our lives who have gone above and beyond our expectations. As we celebrate them, help us to follow their example and be the best self we can be each day of our lives. May we look 'above' to you for our help as we are inspired by you to go 'beyond'. Amen.