



Bursting the Balloon

Aim:

To understand the importance of addressing conflict before it escalates.

Preparation and materials:

A balloon

Assembly:

Entry music: I Predict a Riot, Kaiser Chiefs

1. Show the word 'conflict.' What are other words that mean the same thing? What causes conflict at home or at school?
2. Tell the following story and have another teacher blowing up a balloon, adding air each time the conflict escalates:
Sunil and Qasim are in the same class and sit at the same table in maths. Qasim constantly taps his pencil on the table which makes it hard for Sunil to concentrate (*add air*). Because he is feeling frustrated, Sunil pushes past Qasim's chair every time he gets up in the lesson (*add air*). Qasim tells his friends at break time that Sunil has been pushing him around because he thinks he's tough (*add air*). Back in class, Qasim sees Sunil whispering with his friends, and thinks he over-hears his name (*add air*). Qasim and Sunil head out to lunch.
3. At this point, pop the balloon. What do you think happens at lunchtime? Why? Could this have been prevented? How?
4. Most conflicts start with something small but, if we don't deal with them, they can quickly escalate into something that is much harder to resolve. What escalated the conflict in the story? What should we do when someone else annoys or upsets us? What virtues does it take to do this?

Reflection:

Think about a recent conflict that you have been involved in. What behaviours made the conflict worse? What behaviours helped resolve the conflict?

Challenge:

This week, notice when you are feeling annoyed or upset with someone. Can you address it with them straight away?