

Assembly- Spirit of the snow

Alex Wallace

It was week one of this term, I was already a little weary after the excitement of the festive period. I rested well over the weekend and had enjoyed a usual Monday and Tuesday filled with Geography and well behaved Year 11s. It was Wednesday morning when the phone rang at 6.25am. "Good morning Mr Wallace, you do realize your phone is ringing" my wife said. "Thank you Mrs Wallace, don't you look radiant at this early hour of the morning!" I exclaimed. I must confess I am not normally this polite at 6.25am in the morning but something seemed different on that morning. I couldn't quite work out what it was.

I answered the phone, it was the wonderful Mrs Booth, "I have some bad news I'm afraid Mr Wallace, the school will be shut due to the snow," "You're joking I exclaimed, I had a full 8 lessons of Geography planned," "I'm sorry you'll just have to save it for next week!" she replied. Bitterly disappointed I put the phone down and went and made my wife a cup of tea. Again very kind of me!

I then contacted Mr and Mrs Stubbs to inform them of the timings that the sledging would commence. But first we decided to walk into town, on the way we helped and witnessed numerous people pushing cars, aiding elderly people walking, carrying people's shopping, withdrawing the stones from the middle of their snowballs. I suddenly realised why this was occurring. It was the spirit of the snow!

The spirit was contagious; people who normally walk along the street with their head down hoping not to make eye contact would now look up at you coming the other way and smile and wish you good morning or even make the excellent observations such as, "ooo careful, slippery" or my favorite, "bit chilly isn't it!"

Anyhow I was loving this new found positivity and decided that I would dedicate the following snow days to the spirit of the snow. I helped an old lady down our road whom I had never met before clear her drive. Turned out she was a lovely old dear and a fine maker of tea! I helped a friend repair his car on the busy A40. I pushed numerous cars up and down hills, I let Mr Stubbs win the sledging speed event of 2010 but sadly the spirit was not strong enough to let him win the jumping! The best thing about the spirit of the snow is that not only does it make other people feel better but it also made me feel better. I totally loved it!

My three days off school were made far more wholesome due to the commitment I made to the spirit of the snow. I made new friends, met all kinds of people, my wife even appreciated me and I felt really good about it! Sadly of course the snow has to melt and with it went the spirit of the snow. People's heads were back on the floor as you walked past them, people with car trouble received mocking comments and no help. Doris at number 32 isn't offering anymore tea and biscuits. Mr Stubbs has not won anything since. I don't feel as good!

I fear that everyone in here knows what I am talking about. The spirit has been lost from many of us. We need to rekindle it. It should not take 10 cm of snow to allow to help our neighbour. Today is going to be spirit of the snow day. Try and do something today to help someone out. Open the door for someone, carry someone's book, spare the time to listen to people. If you're lucky and you get thanked, remember that is the spirit of the snow at work. Everyone loves a snow day, sometimes the snow is not there but the spirit should always be present! Enjoy making other people's day easier, life is tough enough already!

