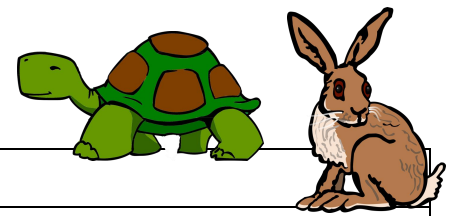




### 3. Don't give up!!



**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are warming up for the Summer Olympics by going back in time and revisiting some Olympic and Paralympic Games from the past. We will share inspirational stories which reflect the six Olympic values of Determination, Excellence, Inspiration, Courage, Friendship and Equality and use them to help us to think about what we can learn from them.



**How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?**

Many of the Olympic values are shared with those that are familiar to us in school, so throughout this term, we encourage you to link each week's collective worship to your school vision – and the way that you live this out through your values.

Today we are especially focusing on **determination (and perseverance)** as Olympic values.

**Resources:**

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today's script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **There is also an Olympic 'passport' that you can create using the reflection cards for each week, and to gather some thoughts from your children as you go along. This is in a separate file and could be easily constructed from an A4 or A5 folder with plastic pockets, but will also be included in each week's resources. You could 'stamp' your reflection card each week, just like you would a passport. There is space for this at the top of each card. Use as many as you have time for.**
- This week, we return to a very familiar story from Aesop, of the Hare and the Tortoise. There is an on-screen game that you will need to make a cut out hare and tortoise as your counter. Project the board onto the screen so that you create 'counters' the correct size using the character cards in this resource. If you want a couple of audio/video recordings to use at another time, try here: [Aesop's Fables - Fables 1 - 4 - BBC Sounds](#) or [The Hare and the Tortoise - BBC Teach](#)
- **Reflective prayer activity:** Cut out speech bubbles and ask children to write words of encouragement (like the writer to the Hebrews did) that will help others to persevere.

**Gathering:**

**Slide 1: Use the new gathering words, which will be the same each week.**



- **Leader: We are here together**
- **ALL: May we 'GO FOR GOLD!' in our words and actions today!**

**Engaging:**

- **Slide 2:** Last week we heard about the idea that Baron de Coubertin had in setting up what we call the 'modern' Olympic Games event – and he established the first Olympic values of..... **Respect, Excellence and Friendship.**
- Since then, more values have been added through the Paralympic Games.....the values of **Determination, Courage, Equality and Inspiration.**
- These seven values are going to be the focus of our times together this term as we learn from the inspirational stories of Olympian and Paralympian athletes from across the world, and across time! Today, we will be hearing a story about a very determined athlete, but first.....
- **Slide 3:** ....we're going to start with a very short story, which many of you may have grown up with.....the story of the hare and the tortoise, which was (by the way!) written by our good friend Aesop, in Ancient Greece, not long after the Ancient Olympic Games were founded. [retell the story or use story links in resources above if you need to] In the story, who wins the race?.....we'll come back to this shortly, so don't forget it!
- **Slide 4:** We're going to jump into our Olympic time machine again, and go back in time from 2024 to the very first modern Olympics in **1896**
- **Slide 5:** ..to Greece where the Ancient Olympics had taken place.....and a story from the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, 2 years after Baron de Coubertin had had his idea.
- **Slide 6:** Among the 17 competitors in the marathon race was an Australian runner, Edwin Flack, who had already won gold medals in the 800 and 1,500 metre races, and several other very strong



contenders. But there were crowds of Greek spectators waiting on the Marathon Bridge to await the start of the race, all hoping that one of their own athletes would win a medal.

- **Slide 7:** After 20 miles, with six miles to go, Edwin Flack led the race and full of confidence, he sent a cyclist off to the stadium to announce his victory. Understandably, this news sent the mainly Greek crowd gathered in the stadium into a sad silence. Meanwhile, behind Flack, a Greek runner named
- **Slide 8: Spiridon Louis**, had passed several other of the strong runners to move into second place. But Edwin Flack, just like the hare, was now exhausted, and less than a mile later, Spiridon Louis passed him and pulled into the lead. Unlike Edwin Flack, Spiridon Louis had run steadily and so had enough energy to put on a final burst of speed. Edwin Flack, unable to catch him, staggered, fell and, sadly, was carried from the course. During this battle for the lead, Greek runners had also moved into second and third place – so not only Gold, but Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to Greek marathon runners. Pheidippides would've been so proud!!!
- Edwin Flack may have been the better runner, but Spiridon Louis knew that he needed to run a steady race so that he would have enough energy to **persevere** to the very end of the marathon, just like the tortoise in the story.
- **Slide 9:** For this final part of our assembly, we're going back to the hare and the tortoise to help us think about perseverance.
- We're going to imagine that the hare and the tortoise are having another race on this track. I've got some race cards here. You are going to decide whether the hare and tortoise have persevered by listening to what's written on the card. Here they are, at the start (put hare and tortoise counters on the board)
- *(Pick a card and read out what's on the card. Then ask the assembled children 'Did the hare / tortoise persevere?' If the children decide 'yes', then follow the 'yes' instruction. If they decide 'no', then follow the 'no' instruction. Continue with the hare and tortoise taking turns until there is a winner. It should be the hare this time, as he has obviously learnt his lesson!)*
- **Slide 10:** We talk a lot at school about keeping on trying even when things are difficult, and it's a great feeling when we finally achieve what we've been aiming for.
- But it's not *just* at school that we need to persevere. There will be times all through our lives when things get tough and we'll feel like giving up – you ask any adult about that! There are some words in the Bible, advice for Christians, about what to do when life gets hard, that say this.....

**'Run the race with perseverance.... keep your eyes on Jesus....'**

- These words, written to one of the very first churches, talk about life being a bit like a race, and that Christians need to run that race with perseverance, which is another word for the Olympic value of determination.
- People who run races often have little secrets that keep them going as they run, helping them to persevere even when the going gets tough. Some may picture themselves running across the finishing line – keeping their eyes on their goal. Others might try really hard to remember all the things that their coach – the person who's trained them to run the race – has told them, so it's as if their coach is running the race beside them.
- I wonder what you think these words about persevering might mean for Christians – and how looking at Jesus might help them to keep going in their lives?

**Slide 11: Responding and words for worship**

We're going to have some quiet moments now to think

.....we've been thinking today about **persevering** – being determined to keep on going, even when things get difficult.....

.....every day, we will find there are things that might make it hard for us to keep on going....

....think quietly to yourself about a time when you gave up...

....maybe because it didn't go well the first time....or someone laughed when it went wrong.....or other people seem to be able to do things really easily.....



....now think to yourself about a time when you were really determined to persevere....to keep on going....  
....remember how it felt when you succeeded.....  
...we've heard some words from the Bible about persevering....  
....and heard how people who are Christians will 'keep their eyes on Jesus'....

....I wonder how these words might help Christians?....

I wonder what might help us to persevere – to keep on going when life gets tough?.....

....I wonder how the story of Spiridon Louis might inspire us in our everyday lives?.....

**Slide 12: Opportunity for reflection / prayer**

I'm going to pray now. If this is something that you feel comfortable doing, then you can say 'HELP US TO PERSEVERE' at the end of each line:

Dear God

Help us when we face challenges to remember that you are with us and can help us along the way.

**Slide 13:** When something doesn't go right first time – **HELP US TO PERSEVERE**

**Slide 14:** When we're doing something we don't like – **HELP US TO PERSEVERE**

**Slide 15:** When other people seem to be able to do things really easily – **HELP US TO PERSEVERE**

**Slide 16:** When we feel we're on our own – **HELP US TO PERSEVERE**

**Slide 17: Amen**

**Sending: Slide 18**

**Leader:** As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...

**All:** Let's go for gold\* in all that we do!



\*Again, you might need to unpick what we mean by 'going for gold' in the context of today's words.

**To listen to / sing:**

[Golden Rules](#) / [Golden Rule \(NBD\)](#)

[Resilience in me \(NBD\)](#), a new song

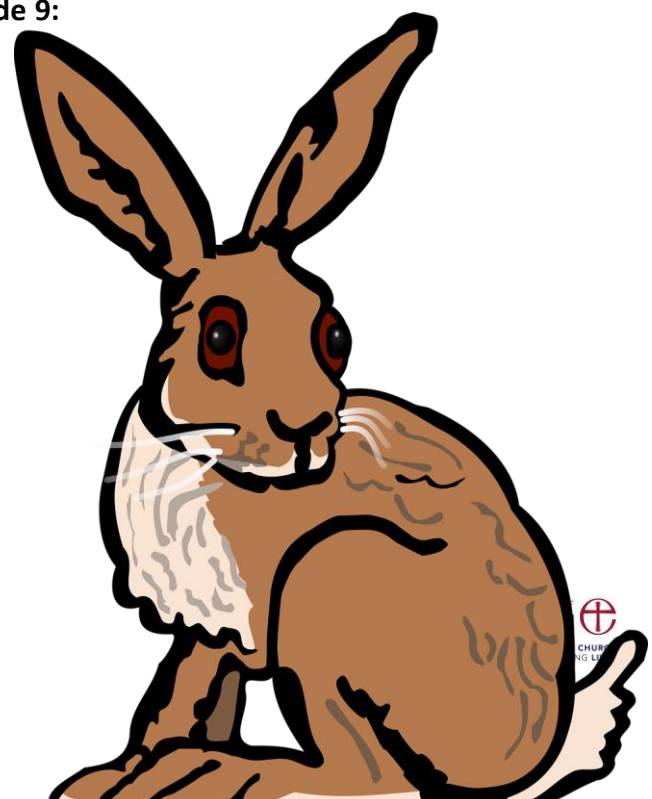
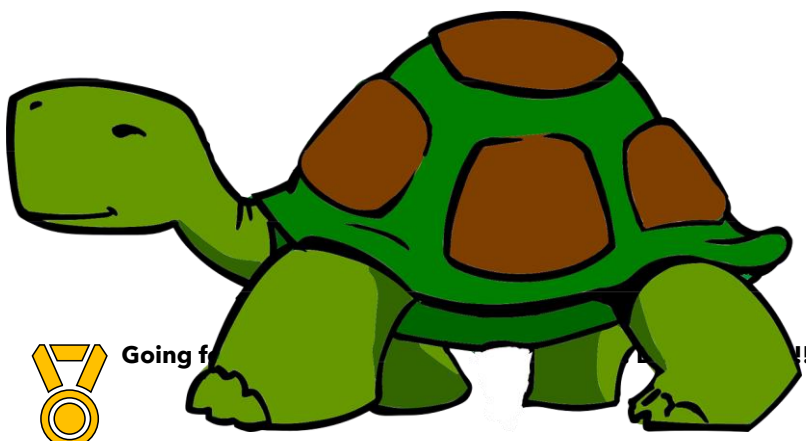


**Slide 19: Reflective areas**

Cut out speech bubbles and ask children to write words of encouragement (like the writer to the Hebrews did) that will help others to persevere.

Use these during the week to help each other.

Print large enough to be counters on your game board for slide 9:



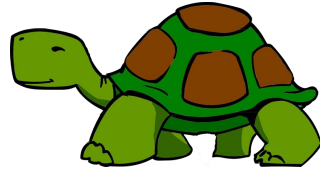
### Tortoise card 1:

Tortoise is building a model with boxes. One of them falls off so he gets cross and throws it in the bin.

Is he persevering ?

**Yes: move on 2 spaces**

**No: stay put**



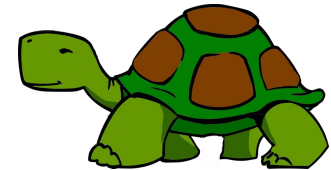
### Tortoise card 2:

Tortoise is reading to his teacher when she gets called away. He sounds out the words by himself.

Is he persevering ?

**Yes: move on 3 spaces**

**No: go back 1 space**



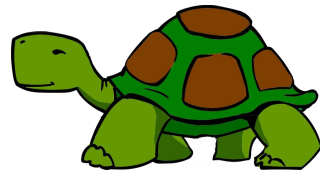
### Tortoise card 3:

Tortoise's friends all seem to be better than him at writing, so he messes around instead of working.

Is he persevering ?

**Yes: move on 3 spaces**

**No: stay put**



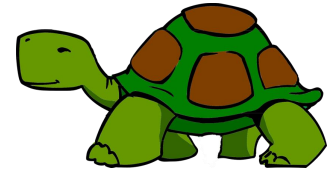
### Tortoise card 4:

Tortoise is really patient with his little sister, even though he's tired after a long day at school.

Is he persevering ?

**Yes: move on 4 spaces**

**No: stay put**



Going for gold!

3. Don't give up!!

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## Hare card 1:

Hare is listening to his teacher even though his best friend is trying to tell him something really interesting.

Is he persevering ?

**Yes: move on 3 spaces**

**No: stay put**



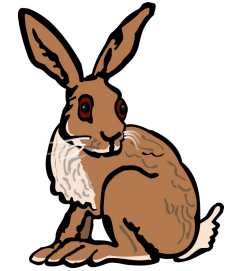
## Hare card 2:

Hare is practising his skipping when his friends laugh at him, so he puts the rope away.

Is he persevering ?

**Yes: move on 2 spaces**

**No: go back 1 space**



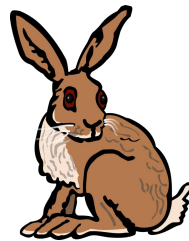
## Hare card 3:

Hare really doesn't like doing hard sums, but because he wants to please his teacher, he finishes the sheet.

Is he persevering ?

**Yes: move on 4 spaces**

**No: go back 2 spaces**



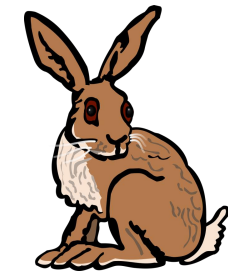
## Hare card 4:

Hare can't find anyone to tie his shoelaces up, so he has a go himself.

Is he persevering ?

**Yes: move on 3 spaces**

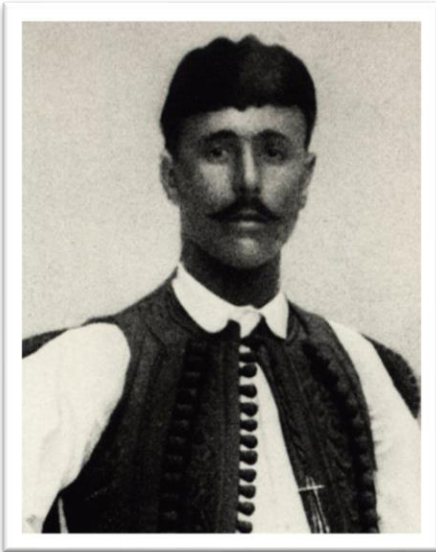
**No: stay put**



Going for gold!

3. Don't give up!!

Arrival on:



# Determination / Perseverance

**Louis Spyridon showed great determination when he kept going and won gold in the 1896 Olympic *marathon*.**



**When is it hard for you to persevere?  
When do you need to show  
determination?**



**Talk together about words of  
encouragement that might help  
others to keep on going.**



**Write your ideas onto one of the  
speech bubbles and use them to  
help someone this week.**



**Going for gold!**

**3. Don't give up!!**

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