Missing Somebody: assembly script

At a glance

Story: Goodbye, Swallows **For:** Reception and Key Stage 1 (ages 4–7) **Time:** 10–15 mins
You need: the PowerPoint. The same script is in its speaker notes. You don't need any props.
Links: Relationships and health education (primary): caring friendships; general wellbeing. EYFS Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Self-Regulation.

Good to know

Some children may be missing a parent, or grieving. Let them listen without joining in, and check in quietly afterwards.

1. Welcome	Welcome, everybody. Today's assembly is about missing somebody. We're going to hear a story from Thistledown Lane called "Goodbye, Swallows".
2. Think about it	Ask: Who do you miss when they are not with you? Let one or two children share if they would like to. Say: missing somebody can feel heavy in our tummies. In today's story, Bramble finds out that a friend is going away.
3. The story, part 1	Read: Skye is a swallow. She is very fast. She always says, "See you in spring!" Her friends think it is a joke.
4. The story, part 2	Read: One morning, lots of swallows sat in a row on the wire. "It's time for us to go," said Skye. The swallows were flying all the way to Africa, where it is warm.
5. The story, part 3	Read: Bramble felt sad. She ran home to Mam. "I'm going to miss her," said Bramble. Mam said it is alright to be sad.
6. The story, part 4	Read: Then Bramble had an idea. She made a big swallow out of leaves on top of the wall, with Moss and Lilly. Moss found a little purple leaf for Skye's neckerchief.
7. The story, part 5	Read: Skye saw it from the wire. She flew down and landed on it. "Is that really me?" she asked. "I'll miss you too."
8. The story, part 6	Read: Then the swallows flew away. "See you in spring!" everybody shouted. Old Wren stayed. Wrens stay here all winter long.

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9. Talk together	Give children half a minute with a partner for each question, then take a few answers. 1. How did Bramble feel when Skye said she was going? Listen for: sad, because she was going to miss her. 2. What did Mam say? Listen for: it is alright to be sad. 3. What did Bramble, Moss and Lilly make for Skye? Listen for: a big swallow made of leaves, that she could see from the sky.
10. Have a go	Link your thumbs and flap your hands like swallow wings. Fly them up, up and away. Wave and say together: “See you in spring!”
11. Remember	Read it together, slowly. Ask the children to say it back to you.
12. Quiet moment	Invite everybody to sit still, close their eyes if they would like to, and think quietly for half a minute. You can add your own school’s prayer or reflection here.
13. This week	Set the challenge for the week. Make a card or a picture for somebody you don’t see very often. You could ask in your next assembly who had a go.
14. Goodbye	Say goodbye. If you have time, watch the whole episode free at https://thistledownlane.co.uk/episode-goodbye-swallows (no adverts, no sign-in and no tracking).

The lesson

It’s alright to feel sad when a friend goes away. Missing someone shows how much you like them.

If you have longer

Watch the whole episode free at **thistledownlane.co.uk/episode-goodbye-swallows** before the questions. There are no adverts, no sign-in and no tracking.

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