



# 14. Olympic Achievements!

**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?

This assembly is the final assembly in the series celebrating the start of the Paris 2024 Olympics, reflecting on all the values that have shaped the assemblies this term. It also gives opportunity to celebrate some of the achievements of pupils within your school, maybe especially the ones who often don't get noticed. It involves a little advance preparation for you and for other teachers in the school, since they will be nominating children from their own classes, not necessarily for academic achievements, but reflecting the Olympic values that the term's been focused on. There are references to the Olympic athletes we've centred the assemblies around this term, so if you don't wish to use these, omit the sections in italics.

### 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.**
- Give plenty of advance warning of this '**Olympic Achievements**' event amongst colleagues, since they may have to think creatively about the nomination categories – Excellence; Respect; Inspiration; Friendship; Determination; Courage; Equality. You don't necessarily have to have 'nominees' for each of the values, but it's worth spending a bit of time together as a staff team deciding how to interpret each. Create certificates using the model on page 4. If appropriate, you may also want to award an Olympic-style medal to each pupil [e.g. here, although other retailers are available! [Gold Winning Medals | Baker Ross](#)] **NB Just as happens at the Oscars, display the list of winners in each category on the blank slides in the presentation. As you present each award, you could talk a bit about why each child has been awarded their certificate / medal, or ask each teacher to explain.**
- **There are blank certificates to use on p. 4:** adapt them if you need to!
- **Reflective areas:** As this is the last of our resources for this term, and a celebration of all you've achieved this school year, there are no resources for your reflective areas this week.

### 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:** Well, we've reached the final assembly of this term, but before we find out where we are in Olympic history for today, let's spend a few moments reflecting back over our assemblies this term.....
- **Slide 3:** We started back in Ancient Greece where the Olympics began, in 776 BC, and since then have visited many different places and times....
- **Slide 4: [shows all the map locations & dates]** And of course, we are now looking forward to celebrating the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Olympics, when they start on 26<sup>th</sup> July [that's just .... days from now!]
- **Slide 5:** We heard how Baron de Coubertin started the modern Olympic movement in 1894...
- **Slide 6:** .....and we've thought about his Olympic values of Respect, Excellence and Friendship.....but also about other important sporting values – Equality, Courage, Inspiration and Determination – values at the heart of the Paralympics....
- **Slide 7:** So, where are we going to be today, for this final assembly? Let's jump into our Olympic time machine for our final destination.....and go.....well, nowhere, actually!



- **Slide 8:** We're staying right here, in this hall, for a very special Olympic assembly – our very own Olympic Awards ceremony, celebrating our own Olympic Achievements....  
Our awards are going to be focused on the Olympic values that have been at the very heart of our assemblies this term.
- **Slide 9:** Before we announce any names, we need to remember those very important words from Baron de Coubertin: **'The important thing.....is not winning, but taking part'**  
Every single person in this hall today has achieved many things this year at school – I expect some of you know you've got better at some things because your teachers have told you so, or because you find things easier to do than you did at the start of the year. Each teacher has had to think really hard this week and they have only been allowed to choose .... children in their class who they think have shown a great achievement this year. That doesn't mean just because you don't come up to the front that you haven't achieved anything – we all know that's not true. So, let's be 'good sports', be glad for our friends and celebrate their achievements.

**NB Just as happens at the Oscars, display the list of winners in each category on the blank slides in the presentation. As you present each award, you could talk a bit about why each child has been awarded their certificate / medal, or ask each teacher to explain.**

- **Slide 10:** *This term, we've heard how Spyridon Louis showed great perseverance and determination in the marathon in 1896, and so, our first category is **Determination**. And the winners are..... [slide 11]*
- **Slide 12:** *We've also heard how Jim Thorpe excelled in many different sports in the decathlon in 1912, and how **Shane Gould's** special talent was for swimming, and so, our second category is **Excellence**. And the winners are.....[slide 13]*
- **Slide 14:** *We've thought about what inspires athletes to keep on going, to become 'faster, higher, stronger'. We learned that Eric Liddell felt 'God's pleasure' as he ran, and how **Ranatunga Karunananda** ran to make his little daughter proud, and so, our third category is **Inspiration**. And the winners are..... [slide 15]*
- **Slide 16:** *Many athletes, in the Paralympics especially, overcome great difficulties to be able to compete. We heard how Karoly Tackacs taught himself to shoot with his left hand so he could compete in the 1948 Olympic Games, and how home-grown hero **Ellie Simmonds** overcame great challenges to compete in the 2012 Paralympic Games, and so our fourth category is **Courage**. And the winners are..... [slide 17]*
- **Slide 18:** *In 1956, we learned how a young man, John Ian Wing, wrote a letter that encouraged athletes to demonstrate the Olympic value of friendship in the closing ceremony, and so, the next category is **Friendship**. And the winners are..... [slide 19]*
- **Slide 20:** *When we visited the Olympic Games in 1960, we heard the story of the beginnings of the Paralympic Games, and how Margaret Maughan competed as one of the very first paralympic athletes. It was also at the 1960 Olympic Games that black athlete **Wilma Rudolph** competed, and refused to attend her own celebration event until everyone – black and white – was allowed to eat together. So, the sixth category is **Equality**. And the winners are.....[slide 21]*
- **Slide 22:** *And finally, we heard the story of Samia Yusuf Omar and how she earned the respect of the other athletes, and the crowds, by proudly representing her country in the 200m, even though she came last. And so, our final category is **Respect**. And the winners are..... [slide 23]*



[At this point, if timing allows, you could allow the winners to walk around the hall, Olympic-style, in a lap of honour, or just applaud them together.]

#### Slide 24: Responding and words for worship

Now these children are only a few from each class, but I'm sure that if I asked the teachers, they could tell me something that each one of you has achieved this year. Unfortunately, the assembly would probably last all day! They could probably also tell me something they have achieved this year too – because it's not just children who learn new things!!

This term, we've heard many examples of how amazing our bodies and brains are, through the stories of different athletes and their incredible Olympic achievements.

....the wonderful thing about being a human being is that we all have the ability to learn new things....  
...sometimes, we may not find it easy to do something new, but we know that if we keep on trying, one day we will be able to say 'I did it!'.....

....in the quietness now, think now about something that **you** have achieved this year.....you can **all** feel proud of yourselves.....

....I wonder what achievement you are most proud of this year?....

...I wonder whose example has inspired you most this term?....

....I wonder how our Olympic Values might help us as we go forwards from here into a new school year?....

...we've also heard during this term how Christians believe that their talents and abilities, the things they are good at, like all good gifts, come from God.....

....you might want to say your own thank-you prayer to him for the talents and abilities he's given to you.....

For the next few moments, I'd like us all to be quiet and think – you might want to close your eyes. Afterwards I will be saying a prayer, which you can make your own if you wish by saying 'Amen' at the end:

#### Slide 25: Prayer

Dear God

**We want to thank you for this special time when we have been able to think about what we have achieved this year. As we look back, may we be inspired to carry on working hard to achieve new and greater things in the year to come.**

Slide 26: Amen.

#### Sending: Slide 27

**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:

[Together](#) (NBD)

Also, the link to Proud, which was used last week and would be a great end to your celebration [Proud \(M People\)](#)



**This certificate is awarded to**

**(child's name)**

**for his/her Olympic achievement this**

**year, and for demonstrating the**

**Olympic value of**

**(Olympic value)**

**Signed:**

**Signed:**

**This certificate is awarded to**

**(child's name)**

**for his/her Olympic achievement this**

**year, and for demonstrating the**

**Olympic value of**

**(Olympic value)**

**Signed:**

**Signed:**

