The Kindness Calendar Challenge

1. Any two of the following: writing a thoughtful note to a lunch supervisor, sharing a book with a Reception child, or tidying the library shelves. (2 marks)

Working: The text lists these as examples of tasks pupils complete.

1 mark for each correct task identified (max 2).

2. They open a small envelope containing a daily kindness mission. (1 mark)

Working: The text states: '...children open a small envelope containing a daily kindness mission.'

Accept any answer mentioning the envelope and the kindness mission.

3. The school is a 'hub of positivity' because pupils are performing small, selfless actions that make others feel good, leading to a shift in the playground mood. (2 marks)

Look for: Evidence of the shift in mood or the cycle of generosity.

Good: It is a hub of positivity because everyone is being kind to each other.

Better: It is a hub of positivity because the pupils are doing selfless actions and the mood in the playground has shifted to be more supportive.

Best: The author calls it a 'hub of positivity' because the pupils' small, selfless actions have created a 'cycle of generosity' where people look out for one another, making the school a happier place.

What moves an answer up: Moving from 'good' to 'best' requires using specific terminology from the text like 'cycle of generosity' and explaining the link between actions and the resulting atmosphere.

4. Sophie means that kindness is contagious; when she helps someone, they feel encouraged to help her or others in return, creating a continuous loop of helpful behaviour. (2 marks)

Look for: The idea that one act of kindness leads to another.

Good: It means that when you are kind, other people are kind back to you.

Better: It means that kindness spreads because when Sophie helped Amira, Amira helped her back, so the kindness keeps going.

Best: Sophie describes a 'cycle of generosity' to show that kindness is reciprocal; her act of helping Amira prompted Amira to help her, creating a chain reaction of support within the school.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer identifies the reciprocal nature of the actions and uses the term 'chain reaction' or 'reciprocal' to show deeper understanding.

5. Yes, it is a good idea because it encourages pupils to think about others and improves the school environment during the winter. (3 marks)

Look for: A clear opinion supported by a reason related to wellbeing or community.

Good: Yes, I think it is a good idea because it makes people happy.

Better: Yes, it is a good idea because it helps children learn to be kind and makes the school a nicer place to be during the cold winter.

Best: I think it is a brilliant idea because it shifts the focus from material gifts to personal wellbeing and community, which helps pupils develop empathy and cooperative skills.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer uses vocabulary from the word bank and explains the long-term benefit of the initiative rather than just the immediate feeling.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates the ability to link specific text evidence to the broader themes of empathy and community. Pupils should be encouraged to use the provided word bank in their explanations.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to re-read the paragraph about Sophie. Ask them: 'What happened after Sophie helped her friend?' to help them understand the cycle of kindness.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often confuse the 'Kindness Advent' with a standard chocolate calendar; ensure they understand the difference between receiving a treat and performing a task.