

What's happening in the news?



Let's have a look at the poster

Learning from Dolly



**What can help us feel
hopeful about a new
beginning?**

Let's look at the story



Earlier this year, singer Dolly Parton gave one of her most hopeful songs a fresh start, by recording it again 50 years after she first wrote it. She worked with other singers and used the new version to raise money for children's cancer research.

Just as Dolly returned to something from her past and gave it new meaning, a new school year gives us an opportunity to build on what we have already learned, try new things and make a positive difference to others.

Learn more about this story [here](#).

Watch the useful video [here](#).



Read through the information below about Dolly Parton and the work she has done. What impact do you think she has had? What do you think we can learn from her legacy?

Who was Dolly?

Born: 19th January 1946 in Tennessee, USA.

Known for: Singer, songwriter, actress, author and businesswoman.

Famous songs: Jolene, 9 to 5, I Will Always Love You, Light of a Clear Blue Morning.

Dolly's dream: Dolly loved music from a young age and dreamed of becoming a singer.

Helping others: In 1995, Dolly started the Imagination Library, which gives free books to young children. She also supported charities, hospitals and communities.

Dolly Parton



Inspired by her father, who never learned to read, Dolly Parton created the Imagination Library to give children free books and help them discover a love of reading.

Source: CBBC

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader."
- Dolly Parton

Dolly's Legacy

Dolly is remembered not only for her music, but for using her success to help others. Her 2026 song, Light of a Clear Blue Morning, continues her message of hope, kindness and fresh starts, showing how one person's ideas can make a difference for years to come!



My Brand-New Day!

A fresh start for the new school year

This year I hope to...

Something new I would like to try is...

If something feels difficult I will...

One way I can help another person is...



Reflection



As we begin a new school year, let us look ahead with hope and support one another. We can remember that every new day brings another opportunity to learn, grow and make a difference.





Main question

What can help us feel hopeful about a new beginning?

 **Listen**  **Think**  **Share**

- Look at the poster image. Do you recognise the person in the picture? It shows singer Dolly Parton. Do you know who she was or why she was famous?
- In recent weeks, people around the world have been sharing tributes to Dolly, celebrating her music, kindness and the difference she made to the lives of others. Read through the information on the resource about Dolly and the work she has done. What impact do you think she has had? What can we learn from her legacy?
- Watch the useful music video which shows the song Dolly released again earlier this year as she turned 80, called 'Light of a Clear Blue Morning'. Listen to the words. The main message is that after difficult times, there is still hope for a brighter new beginning. How does the song make you feel? Dolly donated money from the song to children's charities. Why do you think she might have done this?
- What do you think we mean by a 'fresh start'? Do you see the new school year as a new opportunity for change? What are some of the other times you might have a fresh start?
- As we start the new school year, take some time to think about what you are looking forward to. Is there anything you will be doing differently this year? When we return, we are coming back to a community, including our class and the whole school. Who helps you when you need encouragement, and how can you help those around you?
- Complete the 'My Brand-New Day' template and share some of the responses.

Reflection: As we begin a new school year, let us look ahead with hope and support one another. We can remember that every new day brings another opportunity to learn, grow and make a difference.

Useful Weblinks

- **News story:**
<https://news.vumc.org/2026/01/16/dolly-parton-honors-milestone-birthday-by-giving-back-to-monroe-carell-jr-childrens-hospital-at-vanderbilt/>
- **Useful video:**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=McaD2PG8jOE

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss