

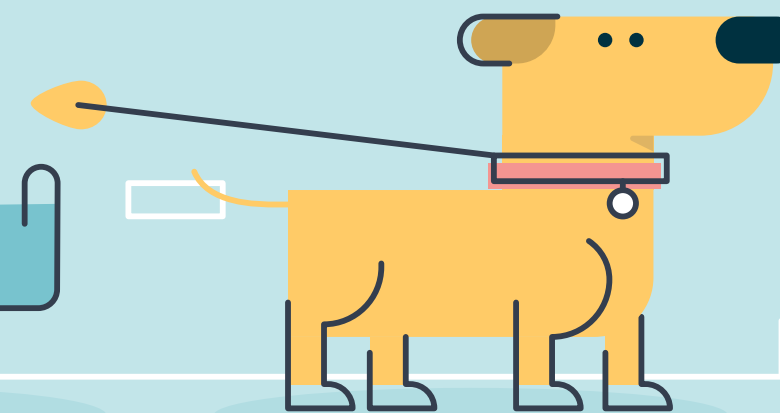
Ellie's teacher recovers from sepsis

In association with

Ellie was very excited today as she had been told her former music teacher, Miss Dunlop, would be returning to Ellie's school after a year of being away.

It was not that Ellie had not enjoyed her music lessons this

past year with the temporary cover teacher, Mr Harrison. In the past year, Ellie had learnt about harmony, had been taught African drumming and had worked with James and Vishnu on some basic composition for the recorder.



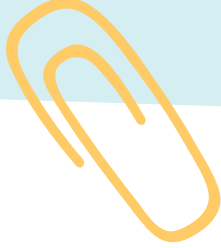


But Ellie particularly liked Miss Dunlop, who had been her form teacher too.

Ellie recalled how, in her Monday morning music lesson a year ago, Miss Dunlop had seemed unwell. Ellie had spoken to Miss Dunlop after the lesson: “Are you ok, Miss?” asked Ellie.

Miss Dunlop told Ellie she was not feeling well that day and thought she might be coming down with influenza.

“I think I’ll be going home at lunchtime if I don’t feel better soon” Miss Dunlop had told Ellie.



By lunchtime, Miss Dunlop's muscles were aching badly, she was very thirsty and was feeling tired so she went home to rest in bed.

Over the following days, Ellie and her friends had asked teachers whether Miss Dunlop was feeling better, but the teachers did not seem to know.

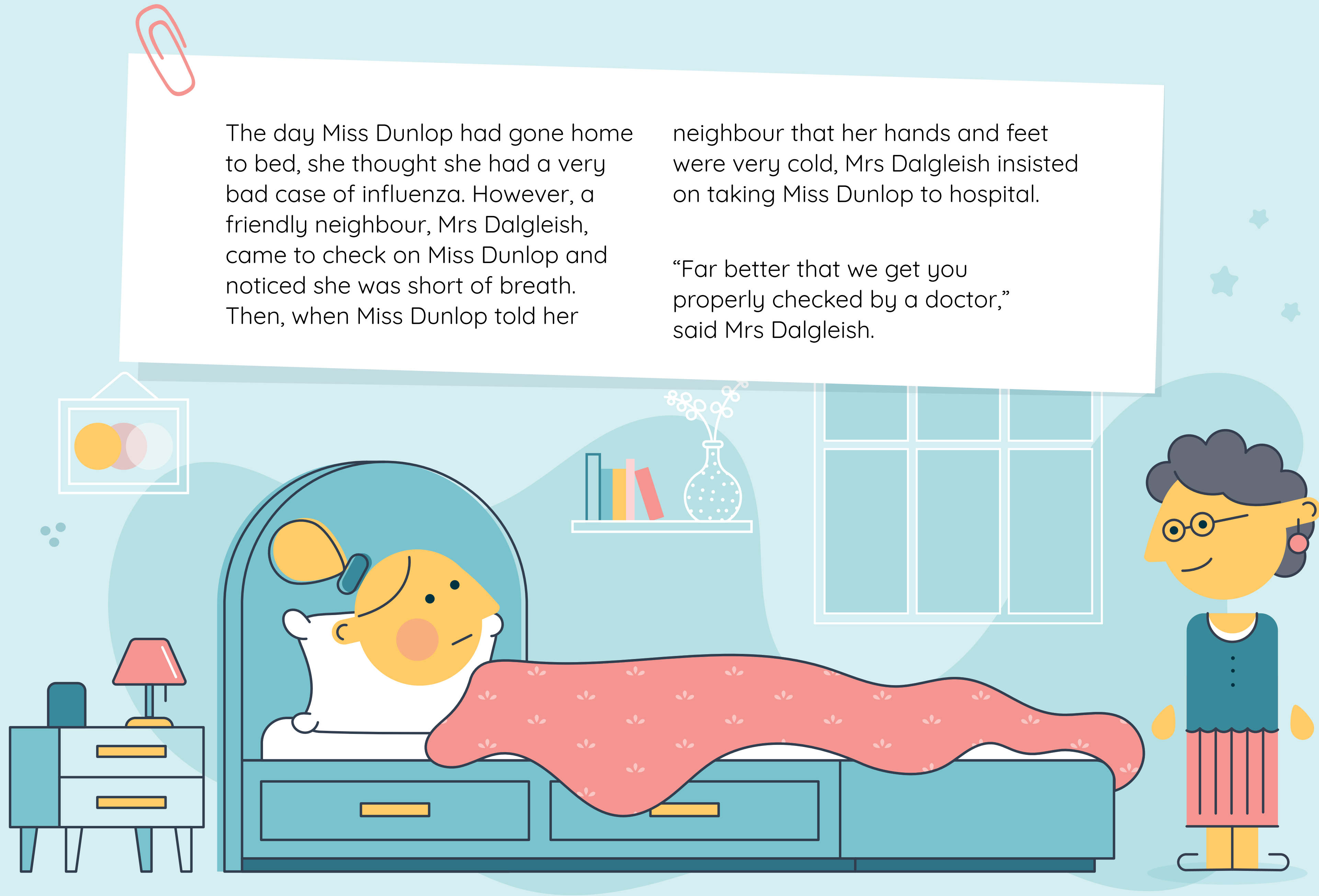
The following week Mr Tyler, the Headteacher, had told the whole school that Miss Dunlop was very poorly and had been admitted to hospital. Ellie, Priya and Vishnu had made Miss Dunlop a huge 'Get Well Soon' card which the school office sent to the hospital, along with cards and gifts from other school children.

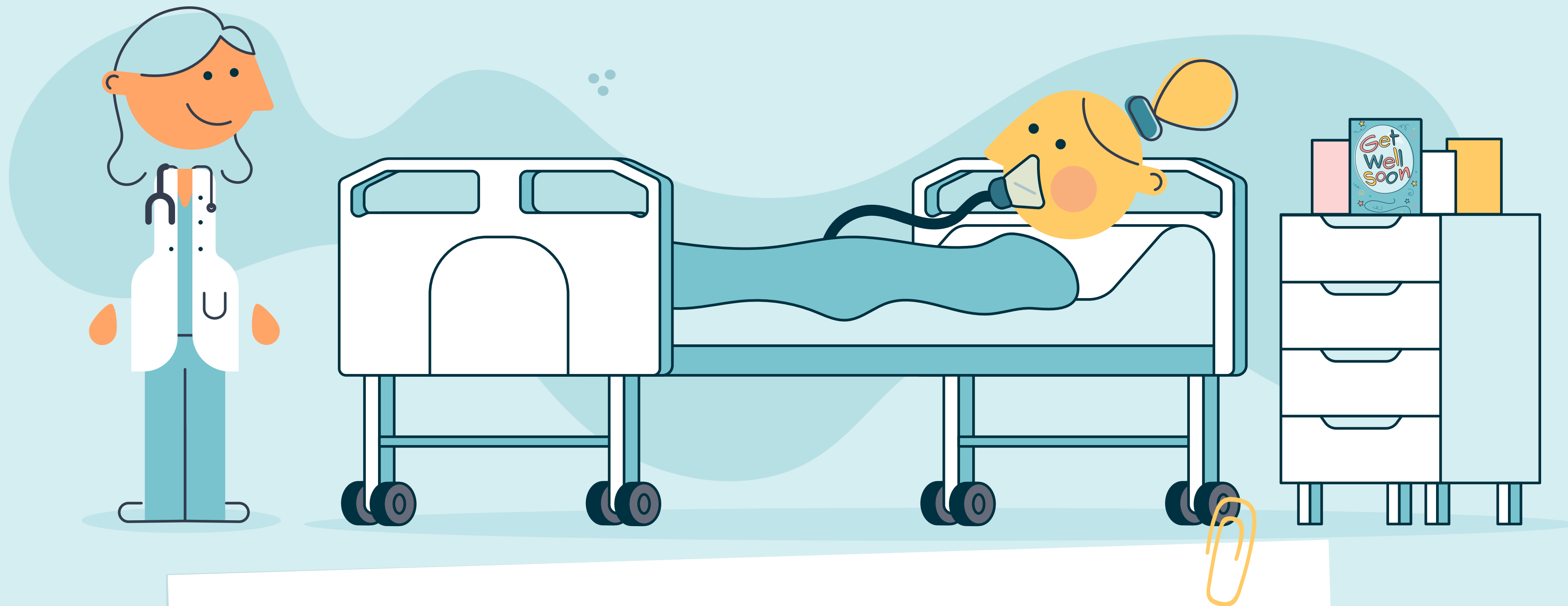


The day Miss Dunlop had gone home to bed, she thought she had a very bad case of influenza. However, a friendly neighbour, Mrs Dalgleish, came to check on Miss Dunlop and noticed she was short of breath. Then, when Miss Dunlop told her

neighbour that her hands and feet were very cold, Mrs Dalgleish insisted on taking Miss Dunlop to hospital.

“Far better that we get you properly checked by a doctor,” said Mrs Dalgleish.





By the time Miss Dunlop arrived at the hospital, she seemed very confused and was talking strangely. When the hospital doctor examined Miss Dunlop, the doctor suspected it might be something very serious, so gave Miss Dunlop oxygen and antibiotics and took some blood samples to test.

The results of the blood tests confirmed the doctor's suspicion - that Miss Dunlop had a dangerous and deadly condition called sepsis.

Ellie had not heard anything more about Miss Dunlop for the rest of the year. Last week Mr Tyler had been pleased to announce Miss Dunlop would be returning to the school, together with a special guest, Dr Daniels, to explain to the school children about the illness she'd had. Mr Tyler had also told the children that Miss Dunlop would be in a wheelchair because of the effects of the sepsis she had suffered.

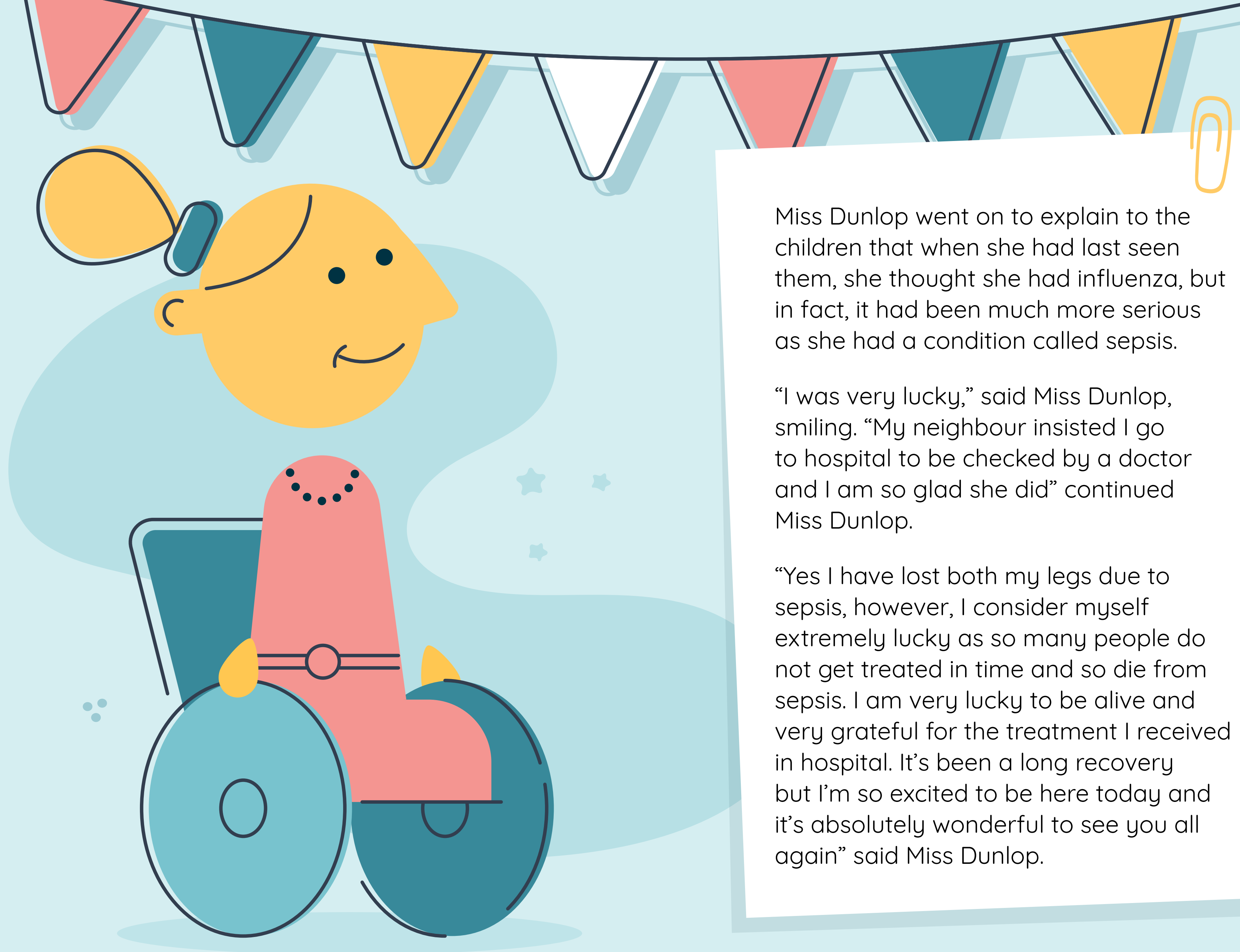


After registration, Ellie and all the other schoolchildren were seated in the main school hall. Mr Tyler stood at the front of the hall to welcome Miss Dunlop and Dr Daniels, an expert on identifying and treating sepsis.

Miss Dunlop was delighted to see all the children again, and she told them how much she had missed them all. Miss Dunlop also thanked the children for their cards, gifts and 'Get Well' wishes she had received in the hospital.

WELCOME BACK MISS DUNLOP

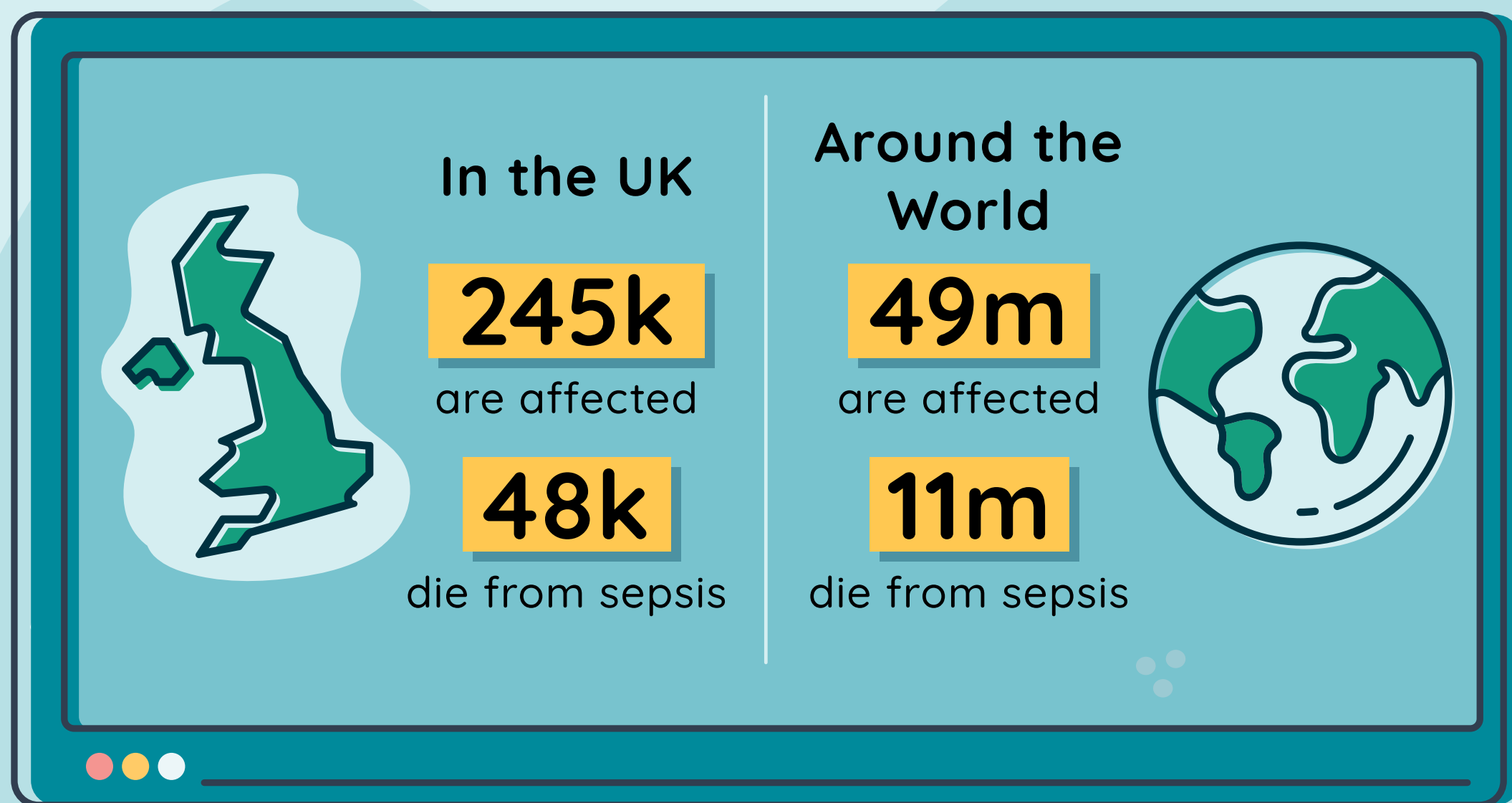




Miss Dunlop went on to explain to the children that when she had last seen them, she thought she had influenza, but in fact, it had been much more serious as she had a condition called sepsis.

“I was very lucky,” said Miss Dunlop, smiling. “My neighbour insisted I go to hospital to be checked by a doctor and I am so glad she did” continued Miss Dunlop.

“Yes I have lost both my legs due to sepsis, however, I consider myself extremely lucky as so many people do not get treated in time and so die from sepsis. I am very lucky to be alive and very grateful for the treatment I received in hospital. It’s been a long recovery but I’m so excited to be here today and it’s absolutely wonderful to see you all again” said Miss Dunlop.

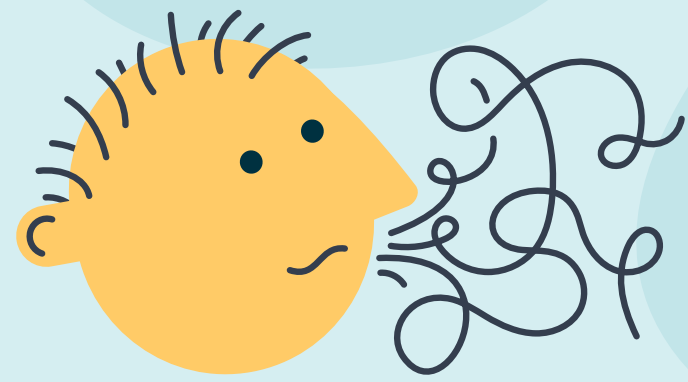


Dr Daniels then spoke to all the children. After introducing himself, Dr Daniels went on to tell the children just how many people die from sepsis each year in the UK. The children gasped as it was such a large number. The children gasped again when they heard how many people die of sepsis around the world each year.



S

is for slurred speech or confusion



E

is for extreme pain in the muscles or joints

P

is for passing no urine in a day



S

is for severe breathlessness

I

is for "It feels like you're going to die"




S

is for skin that's mottled, discoloured or very pale.

"Sepsis can affect anyone of any age and is a medical emergency, but it is often treatable if caught quickly," said Dr Daniels.

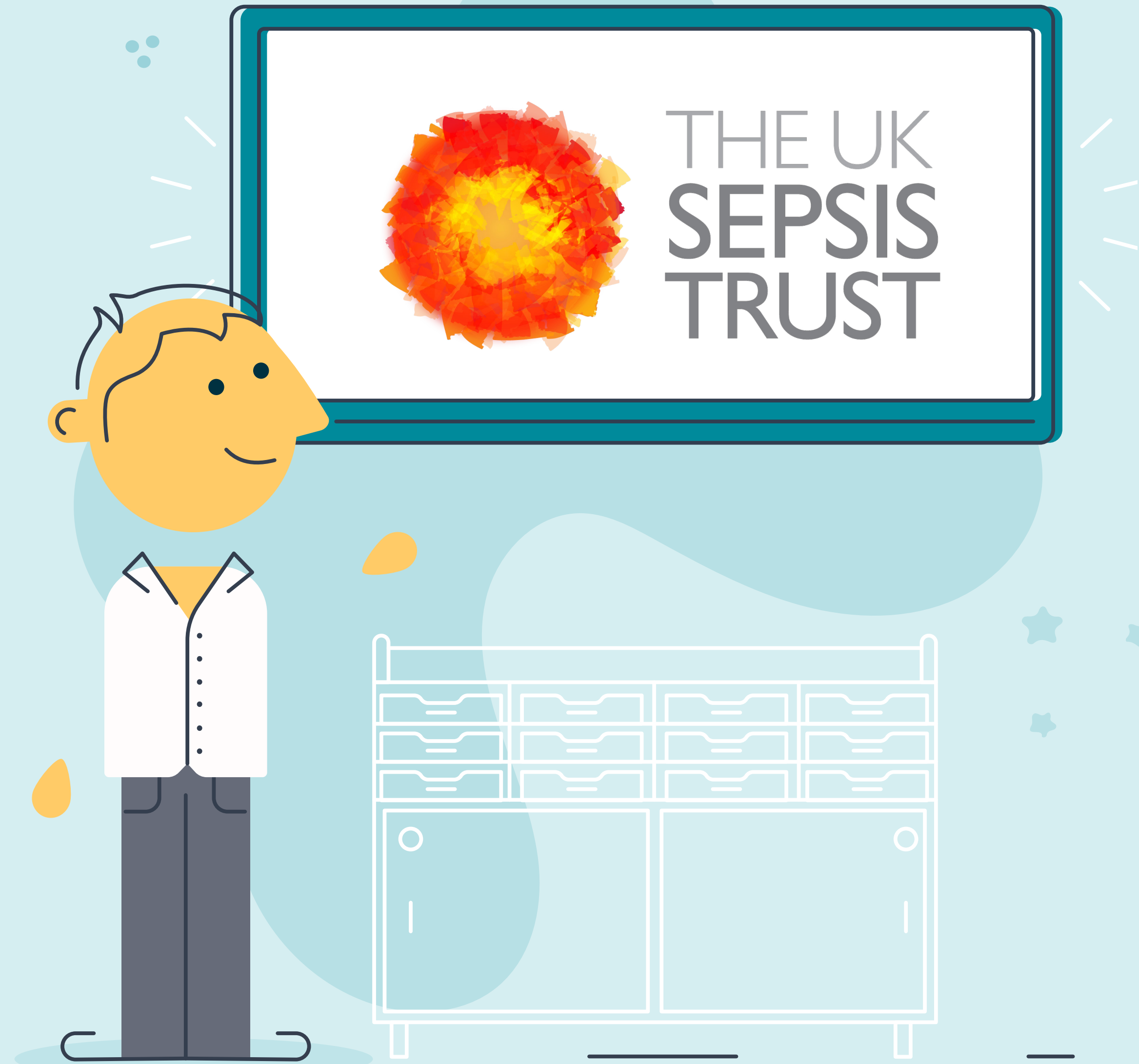
"An easy way to remember some of the symptoms that might fit

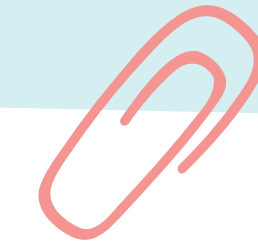
with sepsis is to use the word 'sepsis'" continued Dr Daniels, who then displayed the word on a big screen at the front of the hall, pointing to each letter in turn:



Dr Daniels spoke more about his day to day work treating patients with sepsis, and finished by mentioning a very important charity that raises awareness of sepsis, educates clinicians and supports people recovering from sepsis.

The assembly ended with Miss Dunlop, a massive smile on her face, telling the children how much she was looking forward to returning to her music teaching – and how she was excited about getting her artificial legs so she could learn to walk again. All the children clapped and cheered.





Later that day, on the walk home from school with mum Susan, and Rusty the dog, Ellie relayed the story of Miss Dunlop and all the important facts she had learnt about sepsis.

Ellie also told her mum she'd had two great ideas.

“Firstly,” said Ellie, “the next time Mags, or any of my other cuddly toys get poorly, I’m going to check first whether it could be sepsis. And if it is, make sure it’s treated quickly.”

“Secondly,” continued Ellie “I know exactly which charity we should be raising money for, the next time we all run the family charity fun run.”



For more stories featuring Ellie,
her family, friends and teddies,
as well as accompanying
teaching resources, visit:
www.abpischools.org.uk

BYE —



Designed by tothepoint

Story by Thomas Andrews
Scientist and educationalist

In association with Dr Ron Daniels
The UK Sepsis Trust

