

VE Day

2020



Celebration Ideas



Making Childcare Count

VE Day in Downend, Bristol



VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 - 10 MAY 2020

VE Day 2020 – Celebration Ideas!

"On the morning of 8 May 1945, a national holiday for 'Victory in Europe Day' was declared in Britain, Churchill had gained assurances from the Ministry of Food that there were enough beer supplies in the capital and the Board of Trade announced that people could purchase red, white and blue bunting without using ration coupons. Street parties were held across Britain with bunting lining the streets."

[Bletchley Park Blog](#)

This Friday, 8th May 2020, is the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

Whilst the type of celebrations that we can all do are different to expected, there is much we can do to mark this day!

To support you and to get you enthused, BAND have put together some ideas of activities, recipes, videos, sing-a-long songs that you can try out, with the best of what we can find online.

Have a look through, plan some activities for your setting, and feel free to send the pack on to your teams and families!

Ideas and ways to celebrate

Explaining VE day to children

Newsround has a useful page

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48201749>

And here is footage of the day, including Winston Churchill:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEavcsrMoMw>

Resource Packs

Bletchley Park have a downloadable VE Day pack it covers:

How to make your own bunting

Recipes including Churchill's swiss rolls and potato scones

Words to sing-a-long songs such as 'We'll meet again' and 'Roll out the barrel'.

How to make a newspaper hat and hair decorations

Printable union jack and red white and blue decorations.

<https://bletchleypark.org.uk/cms/2020/04/ve-day-activity-pack-3.pdf>

English Heritage have their own VE day pack with a few recipe and sing-a-long ideas:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/ve-day/>

Film yourself!

Bletchley are creating a celebration film; you can take a short video in your setting, at home, and send it in showing how you are celebrating VE Day. Details are in their activity pack.



Sing-a-long on the day, with practice from now!

This event is hosted by Tom Carradine, a musical historian and pianist who runs workshops in schools. He has recorded 3 videos for teach primary school aged children classic WW2 songs in advance; "Run, Rabbit Run", "Mairzy Doats and Dozy Doats" and "We'll Meet Again". Words are up on the screen and he also shares a little bit about the song's history.

He will then host a special live 15 minute sing-a-long at 11am on Thursday 7th May that you can all join in on; songsheets downloadable from his website.

<https://www.carradinescockneysingalong.co.uk/ve-day>

Airplane challenge

The Imperial War Museum in Duxford is running a family plane challenge this week; there are downloadable templates of both a spitfire and a vulcan plan for a paper aeroplane competition!

With a great intro by a children's BBC presenter; find out more here:

<https://www.facebook.com/iwm.duxford/videos/220014122751824/>

Send in a photo!

BBC local radio stations are encouraging people to decorate their front windows with bunting and to send in photo's of their creations. Why not send in a photo of what you have made in your setting!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles>

Stay at Home Street Party

Communities are being encouraged to decorate their houses in red, white and blue and hold a picnic in their garden or inside If your childcare setting is open on the bank holiday then this is something you could also do.

Videos to watch

The Royal British Legion has veterans telling their stories of WW2 and the end of the War:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6966586>

They are also encouraging people to learn the Charleston Stroll; a popular simple dance in from the 40's. Check out their teaching video on their facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=231103471532441>

More children's activity ideas

Play games of the time; during WW2 children played hopscotch, jump rope and jacks. Board games were popular; Monopoly, backgammon and checkers. What do you have in your setting that children could try? Here's how to play one game you don't need any resources for - Red Light Green Light:

<https://www.playworks.org/resource/game-of-the-week-red-light-green-light/>

Make a newspaper front page about the end of the War and the celebrations.

Design a WW2 poster

Make your own identity cards or ration cards - template examples are here:

<https://www.paperzip.co.uk/ww2-identity-card/>

<https://childreninww2.wordpress.com/rationing-2/ration-books/>

Make a suitcase out of a cereal box. What would you pack if you were being evacuated?

<https://childreninww2.wordpress.com/life-of-an-evacuee/>

Make your own evacuee tag to attach to your luggage – template here;

<https://www.paperzip.co.uk/ww2-evacuee-tag-template/>

Make your own radio broadcast, and listen to a broadcast of the time!

Ask children/families/staff team to bring in a photo of any of their family members who lived through the war and create a display their stories.

On the 7th May: Remember the cockney WW2 children's sing-a-long!

On the day:

At 11am, the Royal Legion will post a virtual parade

Bletchley Park will be marking the 75th anniversary of VE Day online with a digital 'Nation's Toast' at 3pm, and a special recording of a VE Day speech by 'Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill'.

bletchleypark.org.uk/blog/celebrate-ve-day-at-home-with-bletchley-park

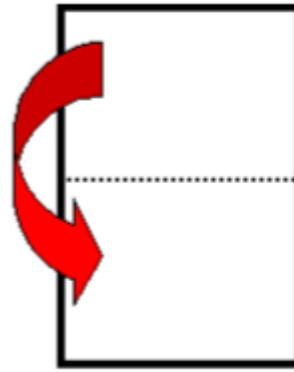
The Queen is addressing the nation at 9pm on BBC One, and afterwards everyone is invited to join in a UK-wide rendition of Dame Vera Lynn's "We'll Meet Again" to mark 75th anniversary of VE Day.

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/ve-day-singalong>

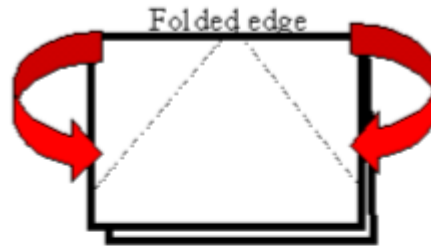
VE Day Hats

Across towns and local communities, the main focus of events on VE Day were usually on children. They celebrated with street parties, parades, fancy dress, and sports days. Decorations were made with whatever was to hand and newspaper party hats were a favourite. Here's how to make one.

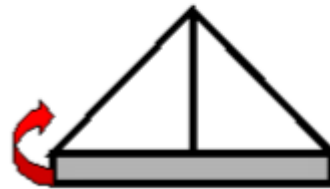
Take a large sheet of newspaper or paper and fold in half.



Fold down each side (from the folded edge) to make triangles that meet in the middle.



Fold the bottom front flap upwards and repeat on the other side.



Decorate your hat however you like using red and blue paint or stick on ribbons or other decorations. Why not paint a V for victory on the front.



Michelle from our DS team trialled the hats with her family

VE Day Ribbon Rosette Favours

Lots of favours and souvenirs were created and sold on VE Day and these really easy to make ribbon rosette favours were very popular. You can make them out of strips of ribbon, material or paper. Here's what to do:

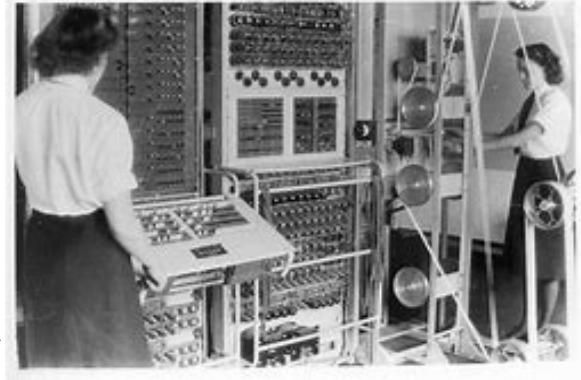
- ▶ Take 4 strips of ribbon or paper. Bend each strip round and glue or staple, as if you were making a paper chain.
- ▶ Layer each piece on top of each other forming a rosette and glue or staple in place.
- ▶ Take 2 more lengths of ribbon or paper and cut a v shape at one end of each. Glue or staple these onto the back of the rosette (they form the tail).
- ▶ Cut out a circle from another piece of ribbon, material or paper and attach this to the middle of the rosette. You could decorate the circle with a V for victory.

Wear as a badge or in your hair.



...Bletchley Park and Code Breaking...

Bletchley Park is an estate in Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, England. It was the site of the United Kingdom's main codebreaking team during World War II. Operators around the country would listen out for German messages that had been coded.



These would then get sent to Bletchley Park to be deciphered using special computers. The messages were then translated into English. The high-level intelligence produced at Bletchley Park, codenamed Ultra, provided crucial help to the Allied war effort. It was vital during the Battle of the Atlantic, when the German U-boat submarine fleet sank merchant shipping in an attempt to starve Britain of supplies. Winston Churchill was later to state:

“The Battle of the Atlantic was the dominating factor all through the war. Never for one moment could we forget that everything happening elsewhere, on land, at sea or in the air depended ultimately on its outcome.”

The work at Bletchley Park is believed to have shortened the war by about 2 years and helped to save millions of lives.

With this in mind, why not set up a ‘Secret Code’ area. Provide different materials for writing and making up codes, including pens, paper, ink stamps, lego bricks – anything really.

All the children have to do is work out what to substitute each letter of the alphabet for or what their code is going to be and then write a message using this system for others to decipher.

...Bletchley Park and Code Breaking...

A couple of examples are:

- ▶ Words could be written backwards
- ▶ Numbers could be used instead of letters eg A=1 B=2 etc
- ▶ Different Lego bricks could be used for each letter of the alphabet
- ▶ Each letter could have a certain colour
- ▶ Using codes, why not set challenges or trails or write out the day's activity plan. The children could work individually or in teams and could build spy dens/bases.



Bletchley Park – image courtesy of Huffington Post UK and code breaking – image courtesy of Blogspot.com

We'll meet again

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day

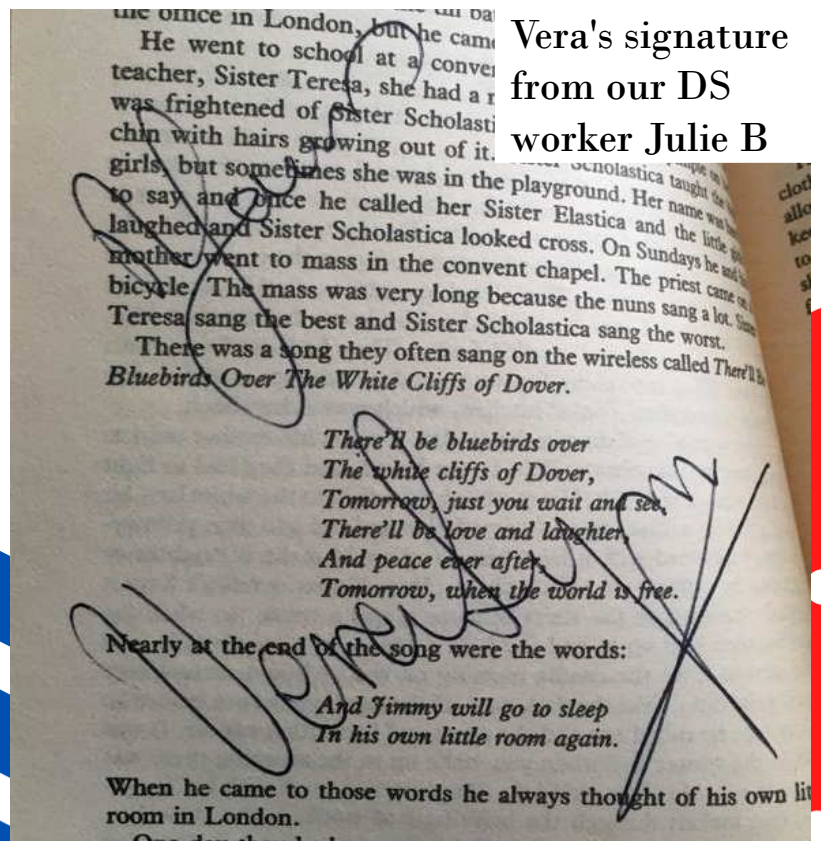
Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Till the blue skies chase
Those dark clouds far away

And I will just say hello
To the folks that you know
Tell them you won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That, as I saw you go
You were singing this song

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day

And I will just say hello
To the folks that you know
Tell them you won't be long
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Some sunny day



Vera's signature
from our DS
worker Julie B

Watch We'll meet again
here

War Time Recipes

Fat and sugar were rationed during the 2nd world war and after buttering bread and putting sugar in tea, families didn't tend to have much of either left over for baking. Instead, mashed or grated potato was often substituted. Potatoes weren't rationed during the war itself but were rationed for about a year in 1947. Here are some great war time recipes for you to try, that use the humble spud, that are the sort of thing people would have made. Note that ounces are used in some of the recipes, as they are pre-metric.

Potato Scones

Ingredients

250g potatoes

20g butter or marg

75g plain flour

Vegetable oil for frying

Method

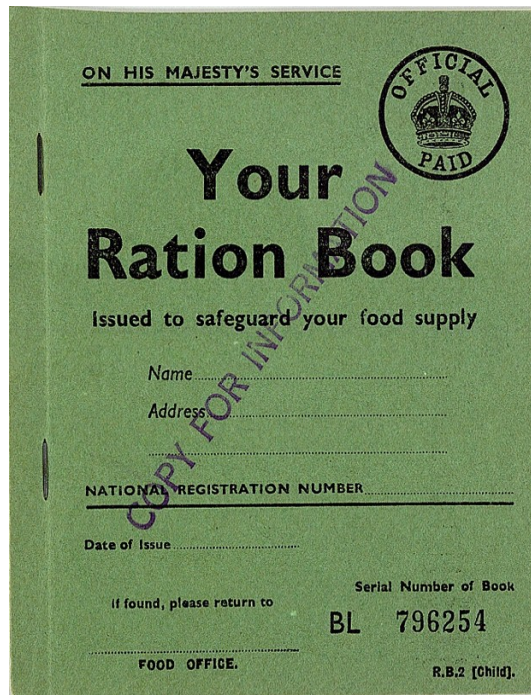
Peel and chop potatoes, put in a pan of water, bring to the boil and cook until soft.

Drain and mash the potatoes with the butter.

Stir in the flour until evenly mixed and leave to cool.

Divide into 2 portions and roll each out on a lightly floured surface to a 12cm round. Dust lightly with flour and prick with a fork.

Heat a little bit of oil in a frying pan and fry the scones one at a time, for about 4 minutes each side, until golden brown. Cut into wedges and serve warm with whatever toppings or garnish you fancy – how about baked beans or cheese?



War Time Recipes

Potato Chocolate Spread

Ingredients

2 tbs mashed potato

1 tbs cocoa

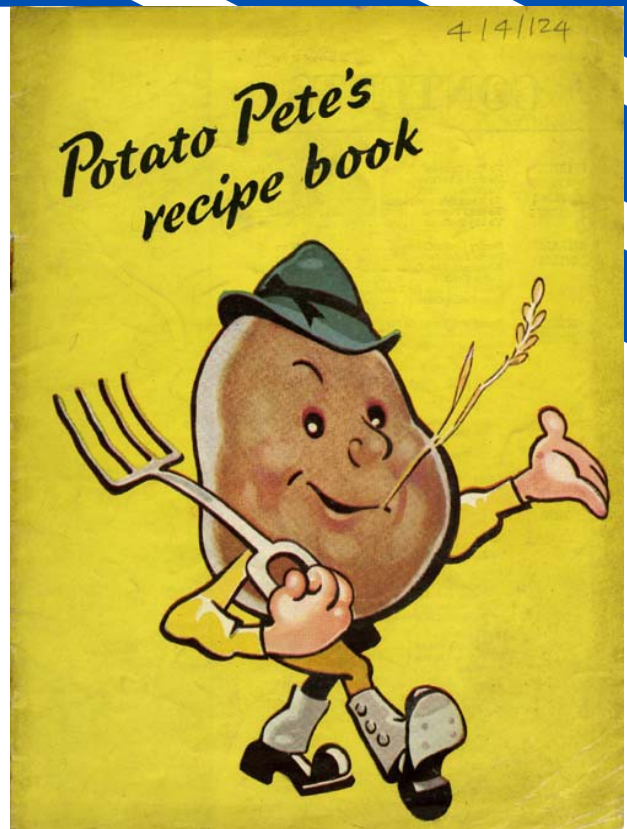
1 tbs sugar

Almond or vanilla flavouring.

Method

Mash the potato thoroughly, mix in the cocoa, sugar and flavouring.

Use as a spread in place of jam.



Potato Pastry

Ingredients

8 oz flour.

4 oz mashed potato.

2 oz fat (recipe suggests just using 1oz for savoury pastry)

½ teaspoonful salt.

Method

Mix the flour and the salt. Cream the fat and the potato, add the flour, and a little water if necessary, to form a rather stiff dough.

Use as your Potato Pastry (for sweet dishes).

Potato Milk Pudding

10 oz shredded (grated) potato

1 oz flour

1 pint milk or milk and water.

1 oz sugar or 1-2 tablespoonfuls jam

Nutmeg

Method

Mix the flour and milk and boil.

Shred (grate) the potato, but do not let it stand or it will go brown, and cover at once with milk and flour.

Place in a pie dish, add the sugar or jam and stir.

Sprinkle with grated nutmeg.

Bake for 1 ½ - 2 hours.

War Time Recipes

WW2 Whit Salad (Mock Egg Salad with Potatoes and Vegetables)

This authentic WW2 salad recipe where the eggs (which were rationed) are made with carrot, a little cheese and mashed potatoes! This salad looks very attractive and feeds four people with ease. Potatoes, that were home-grown, are put to good use in this salad recipe, which is very healthy due to many raw vegetables. The name "Whit Salad" is thought to be derived from Whitsun, which is an important holiday in the church calendar and was celebrated as a public holiday with picnics, fêtes, galas, walks, dances and church suppers.

INGREDIENTS

MOCK POTATO EGGS

225g grated carrots
50g grated Mature Cheddar cheese
450g cooked mashed potatoes
(Desiree)

SALAD

450g cooked, diced potatoes
(Charlotte or Maris Peer)
1/2 small cabbage, grated (or
celeriac)
2 - 3 carrots, grated baby gem
lettuce leaves
12 small (cherry) tomatoes
halved fresh chives, snipped

SALAD DRESSING

1/2 teaspoon salt
pinch of white pepper
1 teacup of milk (about 120mls)
1 tablespoon vinegar
1/2 teaspoon English mustard
powder
1 teaspoon sugar



Photos: Mary Evans/Grenville Collins
Postcard Collection /Wikipedia

DIRECTIONS

Step 1

To make the potato eggs, mix the grated carrots and cheese together to form balls, like egg yolks; add a little of the mashed potato to bind them if necessary. Wrap the balls with a layer of mashed potato, and then cut in half, so they resemble hard boiled eggs.

Step 2

Arrange the salad ingredients on a large serving platter - lettuce first and then the carrots, cabbage (or celeriac), diced potatoes with snipped chives; arrange the tomatoes and mock egg halves around the outside of the salad.

Step 3

Make the dressing by whisking all the ingredients together and drizzle over the salad.

Step 4

NB: Any root vegetables can be used in place of the cabbage and carrots, and commercially made salad cream can be used too. When watercress is in season, decorate the salad with watercress.

