

VE Day 2020: How to celebrate the 75th anniversary in lockdown

As we are unable to celebrate in school why not try celebrating with a 'stay-at-home' party instead!

What is VE Day?

VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) is the day on which Allied forces formally announced the surrender of Germany, which brought the Second World War to a close in Europe.

The military surrender was first signed on May 7, but a slightly modified document with the final terms was signed on May 8 in Berlin.

Celebrations immediately erupted throughout Britain and more than one million people celebrated in the streets. In London, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth appeared on the balcony alongside Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

VE Day is celebrated in memory of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany and Axis forces in the Second World War. It commemorates the armed forces and navy personnel who lost their lives in battle.

How to celebrate VE Day in lockdown

Although social distancing measures have led to gatherings and parties being cancelled, a range of celebratory events throughout the country will take place during lockdown.

A two minute silence will be take place on Friday May 8th at 11am, which will be broadcast on the BBC. 'The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' is scheduled for 3pm, with people across the country standing up and raising a glass of a drink of their choice while saying the following toast: "To those who gave so much, we thank you."

Organisers are also encouraging people to decorate their home in red, white and blue, and hold a 'stay-at-home street party' by having a picnic in their gardens, while observing social distancing rules and staying at least two metres apart from others.

Here are some more ideas and activities to help you celebrate:

Find out what VE day was like on the day 75 years ago.

Read accounts of how people around the UK celebrated VE day

VE Day in London – 1945 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEavcsrMoMw>

VE Day street party – May 1945 – Worcester Park, Surrey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tjuelccukdc>

Look at this collection of pictures from the Imperial War Museum <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/10-photos-of-ve-day-celebrations>

Make your own wartime party food

In 1945 food was rationed, it began after the start of WW2 with petrol and later included other goods such as butter, sugar and bacon. Eventually, most foods were covered by the rationing system with the exception of fruit and vegetables.

Here is a typical weekly food allowance for one adult during WW2. Children would receive half this amount:

- Bacon and ham (3-4 slices/ rashers) 4 oz
- Other meats – 2 small chops
- Butter 2 oz
- Cheese 2 oz
- Margarine 4 oz
- Cooking fat 4 oz
- Plus 1 packet dried milk per month
- Preserves every two months 1 lb
- Tea 2 oz
- Egg (shell egg) 1
- 1 packet dried egg per month
- Sweets 12 oz
- Milk 3 pints
- Sugar 8 oz

We have attached some war time recipes to try out.



Learn some wartime songs

One thing that always helped the world get through the Second World War was music. Why not learn the lyrics to some famous war time songs. We have attached some lyrics to the songs below.

We'll Meet Again – Vera Lynn - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJKMji2688M>

Pack up your troubles by Spike Jones - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKXi7zOtqhs>

At 9pm on Friday 8th May there will be a sing-a-long of 'We'll Meet Again' for the whole country to get involved with.

This will be aired on BBC One as part of the VE Day coverage. Here is more information

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

Learn some 40's dances

Popular dances in the 1940's were swing dance and a dance called the Jitterbug.

Here is a link where you learn to dance the jitterbug <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fs8tbzUr6cQ>

Here is a link where you learn to swing dance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0l-lrUpWEUI>

Code Breakers!

During the Second World War many people worked together to break the codes that other countries were sending.

We have attached a cryptogram. Can you work out Heathlands code? Maybe you can send a code to your teachers?

A cryptogram is text written in code so that only some people can understand it.

VE Day Comprehension Pack

Nicholas Roberts would like to invite you to use their VE Day pack free of charge over the next week or two at home.

Please go their website and type in the below username and password. This will give your children lots of reading and comprehension activities linked to VE Day.

www.nicolasroberts.co.uk

Username: sch329

Password: writing

You will find the VE Day pack in the KS2 Home section of the website. You are also welcome and encouraged to use any other topic specific resources on the website over the next couple of weeks.

Thank you so much for taking part in our VE Day celebrations. Please send any videos, photos or work to your teachers on Seesaw and we can put them on the school website!

Remember to always follow the government guidance for Covid-19 when celebrating.