

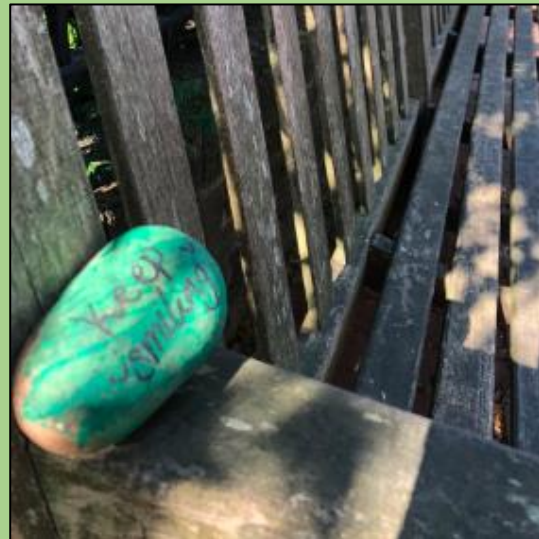
## Good morning everybody!

**Thank you** for telling me about all the acts of compassion you have been showing to your grandparents or to others who might be on their own at this time. I have heard about lots and lots of cards and emails sent to grandmas and grandpas, and lots of people helping out their neighbours who are on their own.



Cards for friends and family, singing and chatting with grandparents

There have also been lots of more unusual acts of kindness and care recently, like Freddy litter-picking on his walks on the Heath or Rose leaving happy messages on pebbles for people to find. Well done to all of you for showing such compassionate, caring and helpful attitudes! Next week is our PSHE week and Miss Innes has some lovely activities planned for us all to help and support our communities – look out for this next week.



This week we are pausing in our thinking about our school's Christian values and focusing on the **VE Day anniversary celebrations** in our assembly.

I know that lots of you have been learning about what happened on VE (Victory in Europe) Day 75 years ago in your home learning this week.

## VE day celebrations 75 years ago

75 years ago on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 all of the United Kingdom celebrated the announcement that the Second World War in Europe was over. It was a time of reflection on the loss that people had suffered but also a time for great celebration and rejoicing. The Royal Family and the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace in front of vast crowds, there were enormous parties and bonfires in the streets and soldiers and others danced and sang late into the night.

Zoom in to see these photographs of VE day.

What are the people doing to celebrate?

How do you think they are feeling?

Look at the expressions on their faces.



You can hear a little bit of one of Winston Churchill's VE Day speeches here:

<https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1941-1945-war-leader/to-v-e-crowds/>

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day celebrations which were planned for this weekend have had to be cancelled or changed because we are all at home. There were supposed to be parades of old soldiers and a special church service at St Paul's Cathedral, for example. Instead, people are remembering VE Day 75 years ago in different ways, such as using the internet to find out about VE Day, decorating their homes or having a party at home.



The Queen is going to make a speech on television this Friday, too.

Can you recognise the Queen (when she was Princess Elizabeth) in this photo from VE Day? Did you know she and her sister, Princess Margaret, secretly left the Palace to join in with the celebrations 75 years ago?

**Lots of our other celebrations have had to change while we have been at home, too.**

Think about the celebrations that have had to change in your house over the last seven weeks? Did you celebrate Easter differently? Or Pesach? Or are you marking Ramadan in a different way this year?

Have you had a birthday to celebrate and did you do this in another way?

I would love to hear about and share the ways you are still celebrating important events, even if they have had to be a little bit different – please do send me any stories or photos you would like to share.

In our house, we celebrated a birthday last week – there was still cake, balloons, a birthday badge and lots of presents! All the parcels came in the post and made a big pile to open on the day and the birthday candles were blown out with cousins watching over the internet. It was a bit different, but it was still fun and it will definitely be a birthday to remember!



I hope all your celebrations at home have been fun, too!

**Finally, we will finish our assembly, as usual, with a prayer.**

**This the reflection on VE Day written by the Royal British Legion:**

### VE Day Reflection

On the 75th anniversary of VE day, let us:

- Give thanks to the Second World War generation for protecting the freedoms, democracy and ways of life we enjoy today
- Remember the bravery, service and sacrifice of the British and Commonwealth Armed forces who fought in the war; those who lost their lives, those who were still trying get home, and those who didn't have a home to return to
- Remember those who contributed to the war effort, including emergency services, families and civilians

Dear Lord,

Please keep us all safe and happy in this time while we are away from each other. Thank you for our families and help us all to use this time to make our connections to our families, near and far, stronger than ever.

Help us to think of new and different ways to celebrate the important events in our communities and our families at this time and to make those celebrations fun for everyone even if we cannot celebrate together at this time.

We pray for all those who are ill and all those who are caring for them all around the world.

Amen