

Challenge Activities - Junior Da Vinci

This year we have decided to move away from termly and half termly JDV challenges and are using a monthly theme to suggest activities to challenge and interest pupils.

Each month different activities will be suggested. Pupils do not have to complete all, or any of these activities. They are available to all pupils in all years, so pupils can choose to investigate something that they are interested in.

Bring any examples of activities that have been completed to Mrs Cowlshaw or share them on Seesaw so that these can be shared with the whole school.



Here are some activities to try.

Lent

The season of Lent lasts for forty days (not including Sundays). It is a time when Christians reflect and prepare for the celebrations of Easter.

People also give to charity, pray more and fast (give something up).

Fasting

People often give up something during Lent as they are following the example of Jesus who fasted in the wilderness.

Giving up something is a reminder the luxuries that we have. It is a way to think about other people around the world who struggle.

There are many ways that we can fast – it could be to give up those little luxuries, like chocolate, or biscuits or McDonalds. But it could also be a fast from social-media exposure or screen time so that we can quiet our minds and open our hearts.

Keep a diary of what you have given up in Lent, are there days when you are finding it easy or difficult to keep it up? Remember, Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. **Share your diary.**

Try some baking – Pretzels

Pretzels started with early Christians during Lent. In the Middle Ages, Fat, eggs, and milk were forbidden during Lent, so a special bread was made with dough consisting of only flour, salt, and water. These little breads were shaped in the form of arms crossed in prayer and were called *bracellae* (Latin, 'little arms'). This became pretzels over time and they were a common Lenten food throughout the Middle Ages in Europe.

[Homemade soft pretzels recipe | Good Food](#)

Prayer

Deepening Prayer

Throughout the season of Lent, we are called to deepen our prayer life. For some of us, this means beginning a habit of daily prayer, setting aside time each day to share our hopes, joys, fears and frustrations with God.

Praying first thing in the morning, while the house is still quiet, or talking to God while on your commute to work are simple ways to integrate prayer into everyday life.

Could you write a prayer for lent?

Alms giving - Charity

Charitable giving is a very ancient practice. Sharing our material goods is often just the beginning of real Christian giving. We are also called to share our time tending to people in need.

What could you do to help a charity?

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter; the sacrifices we do in Lent prepare and purify us in body, mind and spirit for Easter season.

At school we will be taking part in a Skipathon during Lent. This is to raise money for our Foundation charity – **Mary's Meals**. Mary's Meals serves nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. **Find out more about this amazing charity. How do they raise money? What does it cost to feed a child for a school year? What could you do to add your support to their work?**

[Homepage | Mary's Meals UK](#)

If you are unsure about what activities you can do during lent, there are some fantastic ideas here: Each day gives as suggestion of different activities. **Perhaps you could keep a record of which of these 40 acts you have done.**

[40acts: Do Lent generously](#)

Spring

The season of spring is reminds of new life. Have you seen the start of spring where you live?

Take some photos over the next few weeks that show the different signs of spring from your window. Can you see more and more new life as time goes on?

Go on a spring nature walk – what signs and sounds of spring will you discover.

Pi day – March 14 (3.14)

Pi (often represented by the lower-case Greek letter π), one of the most well-known mathematical constants, is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. For any circle, the distance around the edge is a little more than three times the distance across. Pi has interested people around the world for over 4,000 years. Many mathematicians –famous ones such as Fibonacci, Newton, Leibniz, – have toiled over pi, calculated its digits, and applied it in numerous areas of mathematics. Some spent the better parts of their lives calculating just a few digits.

Take some time to research and explore this unique number. **Where does pi occur? What different methods have been used to calculate it? Can you create your own representation of Pi? A Pi skyline?**

[Pi Day Math Art for Kids: Pi Skyline](#)

I hope you enjoy these activities – please let me know how you get on, and please share some examples of things you have found out! **Mrs Cowlishaw**



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