

Challenge Activities - Junior Da Vinci - May 2025

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 to share with the whole school.

Outdoor Play

As the weather improves with the start of Spring, we have some more time to play outside. The longer days and sunnier weather improve our mindset.

Outdoor play can take place anywhere: a setting garden, a local park or forest, or a sunny beach. Let the natural world be your playground.

Use the increased sunshine to make some shadow art – take a look at this activity suggestion:

[Tracing Shadows Activity](#)

What shadow picture can you make?

There are lots of easy, and fun activities that can be done outside – here are some suggestions, take photos of any of these that you complete and write about the fun that you had.

- Have a barbecue or a picnic
- Make a fairy door
- Play balloon volleyball
- Make your own obstacle course

Write a summer bucket list – this is a fun activity that generates excitement and anticipation, giving something to look forward to. Use your imagination and creativity to come up with unique and adventurous ideas.

VE Day

VE day stands for Victory in Europe day. It is celebrated every year on 8 May to mark the day the Allies formally accepted Germany's surrender, and the end of the Second World War. Many people were extremely happy that the fighting had stopped and there were big celebrations and street parties. VE Day was also a moment of great sadness and reflection, as millions of people had lost their lives or lost loved ones in the conflict.

This year will be VE Day's 80th anniversary, with lots of exciting events planned from Monday 5 until the anniversary itself on Thursday 8 May.

Find out more about the different events that are happening nationally to celebrate this momentous occasion. Is there anything happening near you?

Why do you think it is important that we continue to remember and share stories from the Second World War?

Explore the Remembrance poems found in the links below, use these as inspiration to write your own poem using this theme.

[We Remember - The Children's Poetry Archive](#)
[ve-day-poem-transcript.pdf](#)

Eurovision Song Contest

This year the Eurovision song contest takes place from the 13 to 17 May in Basel, Switzerland. The theme for last year's Eurovision was United by Music. This highlights how music can connect us and bring both communities and cultures together, over 160 million people around the world are expected to watch!

Eurovision is a very serious competition, with a strict set of rules. For example, songs must be under 3 minutes long and there can be no more than 6 performers on stage during a song. This amazing singing competition is 68 years old. What interesting facts can you find out about this singing competition?

Ascension day – 29 May

The celebration of the Ascension takes place forty days after Easter.

Why is this important? The Ascension reminds us of who Jesus was and brings to mind the importance of how He has gone to prepare a place for us.

At this time of year, when the meadow flowers open their thousand blossoms to the sun, and the dandelion clocks give their little stars to the breeze, nature appears secure in the promise of the future.

Whether the clouds overhead are black or white, we too can feel linked to the stream of blessings which unite heaven and earth. Use these activities to bring to mind the Ascension.

- Blow bubbles to represent the upward rise of Christ to Heaven.
- Draw clouds on white paper and cut them out. Glue cotton wool onto the paper to make fluffy clouds. Punch a hole in the top of the clouds and run a string through the hole.
- Begin your Pentecost novena to the Holy Spirit.
- Fly kites or make your own kites!
- Talk with your children about doing things that connect us to those who are no longer living near us. This can be praying for those far off loved ones, writing letters, Zoom calling, and sending small gifts through the mail.
- Decorate your home altar with cotton batting pulled into "clouds." You can hang a statue of the Risen Christ on some clear fishing line above your home altar or from the lights above your dining room table.
- Recall how difficult it was for the disciples to say good-bye to Jesus. They were scared and felt alone. We can offer up our daily fears to God to turn into good in our lives and the lives of our loved ones. Remember that Christ is always with us!
- Collect dandelion flowers that have gone to seed. Blow the seeds into the breeze to watch how they float up.

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

Mrs Cowlshaw

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