

Dear Families,

I do hope that you all managed to get some rest and family time over the Easter break.

In all the years that I have been teaching, this is the first time that I have started a new term with most of the school working from home. Our very first remote summer term!

Everyone has had to adapt their way of working - children, parents/carers and staff. I wanted to take the opportunity to say well done to everyone in our community:

Children - your teachers have been really pleased to see the many children who are using the work that has been set - lots of you have been using Spelling Shed, TT Rockstars and Mathletics to practise your skills, which is great, so please keep it up! I hope that you are enjoying using the Learning Projects that go onto the website at the start of each week; I also hope that you are enjoying having the freedom of being able to choose which order you complete the activities in and when you do them. I would like to say a special well done to the children who have been coming into school during this time while their parents work to keep key services going - I know that it hasn't been easy keeping your distance from the other children and the adults and that it is definitely not like 'normal' school - but you have been positive and cheerful and approached the activities with great enthusiasm. I have been particularly impressed by how hard some of the children (and staff) have worked to keep fit with Joe Wicks!!

Parents/carers - I just wanted to say what an amazing job you're doing supporting your child(ren)'s wellbeing and learning during this time. From talking to some of you, I know that keeping learning going at home and motivating your child(ren) to keep them busy is not easy. A particular mention must go to our key worker parents who are busy keeping vital services going, many of you work very much on 'the frontline' - thank you for all that you do.

The staff and I have been kept busy working either in school or from home. Staff are either working to provide childcare for the children of key workers in school, preparing home learning activities or using the time to develop the curriculum ready for next year. Thank you to them for their flexibility and positive attitude.

Although I have been working both in school and from home, I have also been trying to keep busy like everyone else. I have been experimenting with a few new recipes; I have tried to make sure that I have a daily walk, both as a form of exercise and also to enjoying listening to the birds and seeing the trees and flowers blossoming - all the little things in life that we are so often too busy to notice! I have downloaded an App to teach myself Italian - I hope to be able to use it one day when everything is back to normal! My family have been learning new skills too - my daughters are both running as their form of daily exercise and are teaching themselves how to crochet and play the piano and guitar. I hope that you have been trying new things as well.

It's definitely been a strange and challenging time for everyone, so it's ok if you and your child(ren) feel wobbly and worried at the moment. Don't forget that we are still here for you as we continue to work through this together. Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from school, please let us know. You can either ring the school office on 01384 818365 between 9.00am and 12 noon when there will be someone in the office or email us at info@blanford.dudley.sch.uk

We miss the children very much, but we must continue to follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. However, just because we can't all be in same building together, doesn't mean we can't have some fun together! Friday 8th May is VE Day and should have been a Bank Holiday when people could enjoy celebrating and marking the occasion with family and friends. Although we can't celebrate as originally planned, there will be plenty of television programmes to tell the children about the history of the day and why it is so special. Hopefully, households will be able to mark the day in some way. I'm sure that you will have your own ideas but I have included some **learning opportunities at the end of this newsletter** to start you off.

I'm sorry that I can't tell you yet when we will be able to open the school fully since the decision will be made by the Government, but rest assured that we'll continue doing our very best to keep your child learning and our school community connected.

Let's hope that the sunnier weather continues so that everyone can make the most of daily walks and time outdoors.

Take care, stay safe and look after each other,

Mrs Miller



VE Learning Opportunities

HISTORY

- When did World War Two begin?
 - When did the war end?
- Create a timeline showing key events of the war.

GEOGRAPHY

Which countries were involved in World War Two?

Use a map or atlas to find them.

Key Stage 2 children might find these links interesting to give an overview of VE Day:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ve-day/z7xtmfr>

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

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Combine 115 g margarine/butter, 85 g sugar, 150 g self-raising/plain flour with 1 teaspoon of baking powder and a pinch of salt; an egg and a little milk to make some delicious wartime biscuit to share with your family.



WELLBEING

Take time to stop and reflect and to:

- Give thanks for the people who fought to protect our freedom
- Remember the bravery of the soldiers and the emergency services, then and now



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8 - 10 MAY 2020

DANCE

Watch a video of the Lindy Hop, a popular dance during the 1940s. Have a go and perform it for your family!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu6Y9cAQqIs>



MUSIC

Explore the music of the 1940's. Here are two well-known favourites:

We'll Meet Again (Vera Lynn)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsM_VmN6ytk

In the Mood (Glenn Miller)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vOUYry_5Nw





VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 - 10 MAY 2020

Morse code is a way to send messages without using words. It was used during the war as a safe and secret way of communicating.

Each letter of the alphabet is represented by a series of dots and dashes.

A	●—	N	—●
B	—●●●	O	— — —
C	—●—●	P	●— — ●
D	—●●	Q	— — ● —
E	●	R	●—●
F	●●—●	S	●●●
G	— — ●	T	—
H	●●●●	U	●●—
I	●●	V	●●●—
J	●— — —	W	●— —
K	—●—	X	—●●—
L	●—●●	Y	—●— —
M	— —	Z	— — ●●

Use the Morse Code alphabet to translate the messages.

1

●●● ●— — —	
●● ●●●	
●●—●●— — — — —	
●—●● — — — — ● —●● — — — — ●	

Use the Morse Code alphabet to write your own message for a family member or friend.

2

●●—●●● ●—●●● ● — — — —	
●● ●●●	
●● —●	
—●— — — — ●—● —●— ●●● ●●●● ●● ●—●● ●	

Use a torch to send the messages. Use a short flash for each dot and a longer flash for a dash.



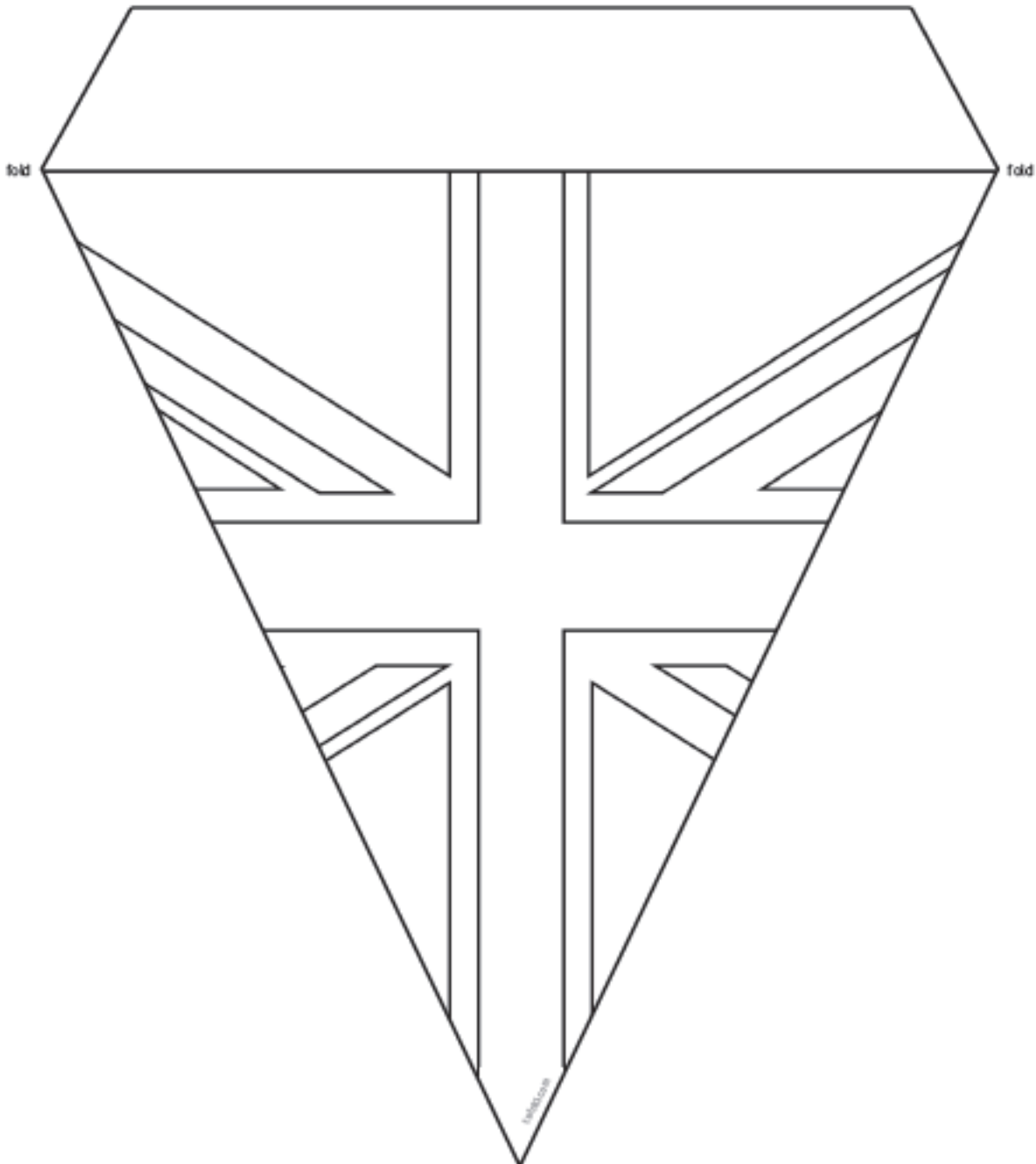
VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8-10 MAY 2020

To celebrate the end of the war people hung bunting up outside their homes. Print and cut out the template. Colour it in to create your own bunting





VE DAY

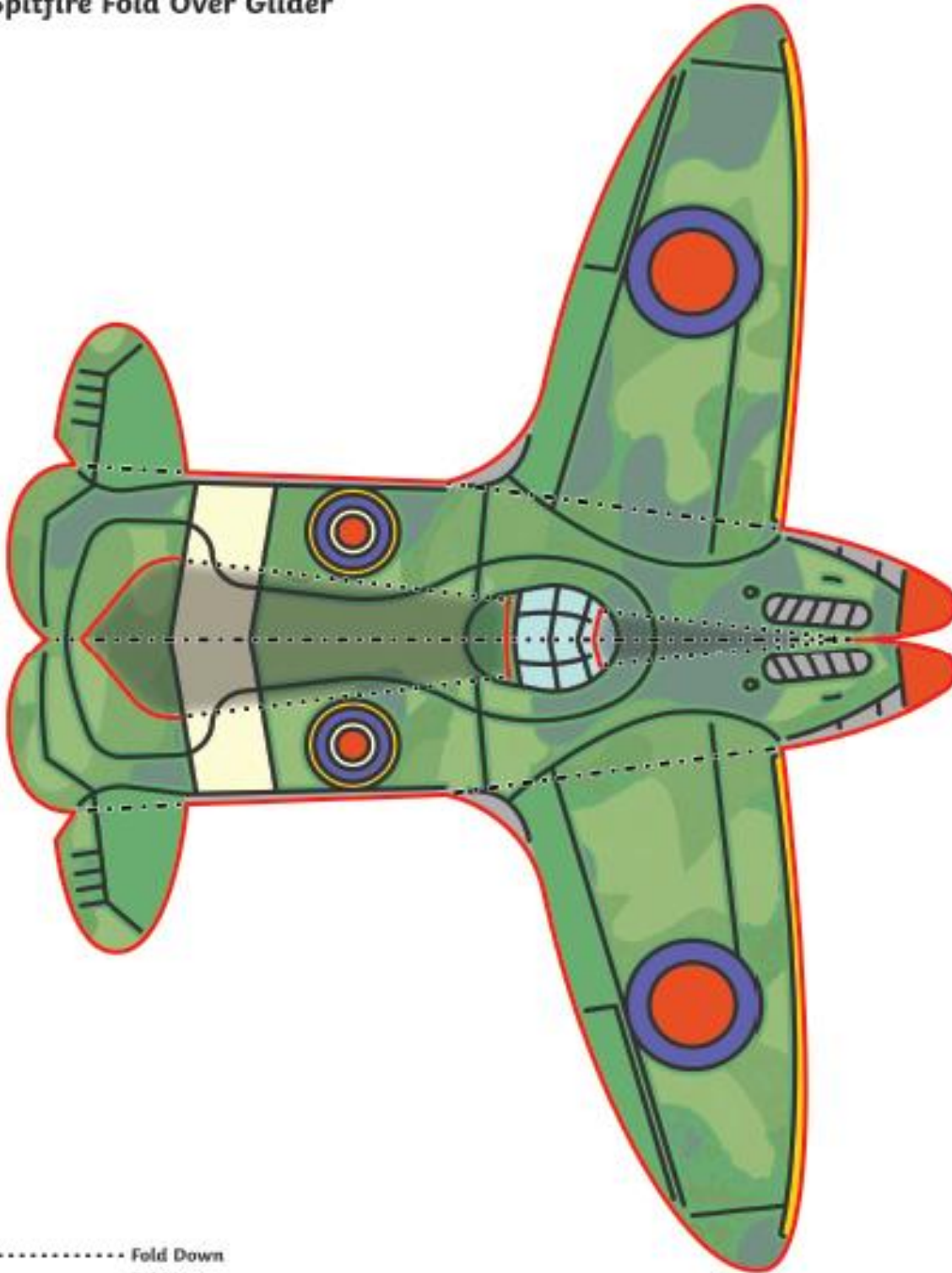
75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8-10 MAY 2020

The Spitfire was a plane used during World War Two. Print and cut out the plane. Fold it along the lines to make your own glider .

Spitfire Fold Over Glider



..... Fold Down
- - - - - Fold Up