



7th May 2020

This week's focus

This week we are looking at:

Article 17: Your right to access information

Article 28: Your right to access an education

You may have wondered why we are having a Bank Holiday on Friday 8th this year. We normally have the first Monday in May as a holiday but this year it's different. Why?

8th May 2020 is the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

What is VE day?





VE Day - or 'Victory in Europe Day' - marks the day towards the end of World War Two (WW2) when fighting against Nazi Germany in Europe came to an end.

- On 8 May 1945, **Prime Minister Winston Churchill** made an announcement on the radio at 3pm that the war in Europe had come to an end, following Germany's surrender the day before.
- By the beginning of 1945, the German army had been weakened and defeat looked likely.
- Tuesday 8 May, 1945, was an emotional day that millions of people had been waiting for.
- Many people were extremely happy that the fighting had stopped and there were big celebrations and street parties. Huge crowds - with lots of people dressed in red, white and blue - gathered outside Buckingham Palace in London. They cheered as King George VI and his family, including Princess Elizabeth (the current queen) and Princess Margaret, came out onto the balcony to greet everybody.
- Princess Elizabeth and her sister were allowed to leave the palace and celebrate with crowds outside, although they had to do it secretly.
- The future Queen described it as "one of the most memorable nights of my life".
- Many people also attended church services to thank God for the victory.



Watch Churchill declare peace:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNVu4fMOJLw&feature=youtu.be>



- But VE Day was also a moment of great sadness and reflection, as millions of people had lost their lives or loved ones in the conflict.
- Many had to continue fighting in other battles and lots of people were being kept as prisoners of war abroad.
- **Was VE Day the end of World War Two?**
- Even though VE Day marked victory for Europe over Germany, it did not mark the end of World War Two.
- In his VE Day announcement, Winston Churchill said: "We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing, but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead."
- Even after 8 May, many soldiers, sailors and pilots were sent to the east to fight against the Japanese, who had not yet surrendered.
- This came on 14 August 1945, after two atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of **Hiroshima** (6 August) and **Nagasaki** (9 August).
- On 15 August 1945, the allies had officially defeated Japan. This date is known as VJ Day.
- World War Two was finally over.



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What happened after World War Two ended?

- While the war was over, it was not the end of hardship.
- Millions of people had lost loved ones and their lives had been turned upside down by the fighting.
- The nation had to rebuild as the war had been so expensive. Clothing and food rationing remained in place.
- It also led to the formation of **the United Nations which in 1945**
- Due to the powers vested in its Charter and its unique international character, the United Nations can take action on the issues confronting humanity in the 21st century, such as peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, humanitarian and health emergencies, gender equality, governance, food production, and more.
- In 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was first signed and it is from this that **the United Nations Conventions of the Rights of a Child came into force.**

On VE Day, let's celebrate the heroes around us right now

- When the decision was made last year to change the Bank Holiday, no-one could have ever predicted what would be happening in the world right now.
- So as it is as important as it is to remember those who sacrificed and gave their lives for our country in World War Two, it's definitely a day to reflect on the heroes around us who are defending our country now and to those many thousands who have sadly lost their lives over the last weeks.
- These are in no particular order...
- The doctors and nurses. The healthcare workers. The scientists working flat out to find a vaccine and a drug that combats the virus. The delivery drivers. The shop workers. The post workers. The volunteers who have massed to help the vulnerable and the needy. The teachers. The politicians. The dentists. The electricians. The train drivers. The bus drivers. The police. The builders. The mechanics. The bike shops. The people working in factories making masks and scrubs. Colonel Tom. Amazon workers. The road workers. The petrol station workers. The council workers. The bin men. The farmers. The butchers. The local shop and businesses that are trying to offer services in these difficult times. Joe Wicks. The fitness industry workers. The mental health professionals. The social workers. The sports stars. The furloughed workers. The private businesses. The large corporations.
- Your families.
- You.
- One day we will have our victory day over this pandemic and we will all remember the part we played in **our** war.
- So this Friday, **celebrate our past heroes and today's heroes.**
- We have risen against challenges before and we are doing it again now. On Friday 8th, why not celebrate each other. It might not be like other Bank Holidays, but there is still much to reflect upon and celebrate. The sun will be shining and right now, that's something to celebrate in itself.

SEND A  HEART TO OUR NHS HEROES



PROTECT THE **NHS**

♥ save lives

- Make sure you go out and clap on Thursday and on Friday 8th, reflect on past heroes and the heroes of today.
- Till next week CVCC, stay safe.

Only in the darkness
can you see the stars.
— Martin Luther King Jr.