



We would like to share a special VE day message from Elmhurst Junior School. Every year we are privileged to hold our own remembrance service in November and hear the roll call of past pupils who have fought in World War 2.

VE Day is a time to honour the brave men and women of our armed forces, the dedicated individuals who worked tirelessly on the home front, and all those who endured unimaginable hardships during those difficult years. Their efforts paved the way for the peace and freedoms we enjoy today.



To help our children understand a little more about this important day:

- **VE stands for Victory in Europe!** It was a day of huge celebrations across the country with people dancing in the streets.
- Imagine a time when there was a big war in many parts of the world, including Europe. VE Day was when that war finally ended in Europe.
- It was a very happy day for everyone because it meant that peace had returned to Europe after a long and difficult time.

By sharing the story of VE Day, we help our children appreciate the sacrifices made for our freedom and understand the importance of peace and remembrance.

On Friday we would like everyone to wear red, white and blue to help celebrate this special day. We are hoping Friday is warm enough for an outside picnic lunch.

Thank you for helping us keep these important memories alive.

## A special reflection


We would like to take this time to honor a special past student, Mr Kenneth Dunthorn.



Here is just one of Ken's VE Day memories as he recounted them (many times) to friends and family.

Whilst Ken was keen to join the war and play his part, it ended before he was old enough to be called upon. However, VE Day turned out to be Ken's moment to shine.

Firstly, he was rung at 8 am by the Chairman of the Parish Council and asked to organise a marching band. This he did by rounding up all the remaining band members from the Air Training Corps, the Boys Brigade, The Church Lads Brigade and any other musicians who had not yet been called up. This somewhat motley crew mustered at the Church and proceeded to proudly parade up and down the High Street whilst other volunteers collected money for the "Welcome Home" Fund.



As Street did not have any pubs this led to the evening celebrations moving to Glastonbury.

There a crowd gathered to dance and sing around the Market Place to an impromptu band. There was a barrel of free cider in, Butcher Dowdney's shop opposite the Town hall.

As darkness fell there were calls to light up the gas lights which had been turned off during the blackout. A small 17 year old voiced his knowledge of gas lights and was quickly lifted on shoulders up to the lamps, which he lit to great cheers so that the celebrations could continue into the early hours.

Well done Ken!



A photo of the "band" marching up the High Street. Ken is behind the big Bass Drum in the middle.



## Community VE celebrations



It was a privilege to take four Y6 children to attend a service in the Street memorial gardens. We watched the flag being raised, listened to the proclamation and joined in with our national anthem.

**V**  
**80**  
**VE DAY**

