

St George's Day 23rd April

St George is the patron saint of England. St George was a Christian roman soldier named Georgios. He was born in Cappadocia (modern day Turkey) around AD270 and was martyred in Palestine in AD303. St George represents honour and bravery. As a soldier he never visited England however when Richard I was King of England he placed himself and his army under the protection of St George. Richard I adopted his emblem of a red cross on a white background onto his armour. Later it then became the symbol representing England on a flag.

The story about George and the Dragon comes from the Golden Legend book where it was translated and first published in English in the late 15th Century. In the original story George rescues a princess after getting the king to baptise all his people. George then kills the dragon as he rescues the princess.

St George's Day is a feast day on the 23rd April which is believed to be the date of his martyrdom. In the past people would wear red roses to celebrate the day. Now people display the flag of St George's cross and in church services the hymn Jerusalem is sung. St George is also the patron saint for Aragon, Catalonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany, Greece, Moscow and other cities. He is also the patron of other things including soldiers, armourers and farmers.

Here is a link to a CBeebies website which has two short videos about children celebrating St Georges Day. There is also a link on this page to a dragon that you can print out and colour in.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-celebrate-st-georges-day>

The story of George and the Dragon by Chris Wormell, read by the author himself, can be found on the link below. This story is a twist on the tale of St George.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSI3wpySr5Q>

Activities

You can create your own St George's flag. You can paint or draw the red cross. Or you could use materials to stick with.



Create your own shield



You don't have to use the red cross of St George and you can create your own designs using things that are important to you.

Create your own knight's mask

Knight Mask

Print onto card. Cut out and laminate if you wish. Punch two holes in the sides and thread elastic through to tie the mask onto your child's head.



You can enlarge this picture to print out for your knight mask.

Handprint Dragon Activities



You can draw around your hands and cut them out to create your dragon. Or you can use paint and create handprints using it. Then cut out the handprints and fasten them together to create your dragon.

Create a wooden spoon dragon.



Paint a wooden spoon and then embellish it to make a dragon.

Create a sock puppet dragon.



Using materials that you have available create wings, a tail, eyes and flames for the dragon. Attach these onto your sock to create your puppet.

If you have older children make a pipe cleaner dragon.



Other activities for St George's Day.



Using play dough create various different pieces of food that you can feed the dragon. This activity is good for developing your child's fine motor skills.

Print out a picture of a dragon. Using a hole punch make holes along the edge of his wings. Using a shoe lace encourage your child to thread the lace through the holes to create their own dragon wings.

In the garden encourage your child to move around and fly swooping and soaring as though they are a dragon.

Make castles using whatever construction materials you have available to represent the Princess being taken safely back home. The castle might even come under attack from the dragon and be destroyed like in the story.

Have your own St George's Day celebration. Fly your flags that you have made.

Make cucumber sandwiches for a picnic in your garden on St George's Day.

Make a red rose to carry during your St George's Day celebration.