

**Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.**

## Activity: St George's Day (23<sup>rd</sup> April)

Celebrate St. George's Day with your very own dragon dance.

### Learning aims

- Develop cultural knowledge of an annual celebration
- Introduce new vocabulary to describe movement
- Choose different ways to move
- Imitate movements of others
- Join in a group activity.



### Resources

- Flag of St. George
- Images of dragons.

### Activity outline

1. Introduce the children to the story of St. George and how he rescued a princess from a dragon, talk about his bravery and because of this, he is the saint for England. Show children the flag of St. George and talk about where they may have seen the flag before and where it might be found. Discuss how people hang St. George's day flags up each year to celebrate his special day
2. Ask children questions about dragons such as what they look like, how big they are and how they move. Share the images of different dragons and discuss their features. Look at their individual sizes and talk about how they might move. Use descriptive vocabulary, e.g. stomp, march, skip, gallop, tip toe, race, slither
3. Invite children to get up and imagine being a dragon by moving around the space like a dragon. Will their dragon make big heavy footsteps, move quickly or slowly, be light and fast, will it have wings that flap as it moves, is it a baby or adult dragon?
4. Introduce a dragon face mask. Model a sequence of movements for children to follow, e.g. stomp three times, swish your tail, flap your wings and roar out fire. Invite children to create and lead their own sequence of movements for others to follow.

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## Extension ideas:

- Create your own St. George's day flags to decorate your setting
- Make individual dragon masks for music and movement sessions
- Create your own English tea party and invite parents as guests.

## NDNA products to support you with this activity:

- Top tip: [Creating authentic celebrations of festivals](#)
- Publication: [Music and movement: The early years.](#)