Roman Soldier to Saint –
the Story of St. George - 23 April

Saint George's day is 23 April. He is the patron saint of England. On 23 April many Christian churches in England will fly a flag of a red cross on a white background. Pictures of St. George often show him as a knight on horseback wearing this cross.

It is unlikely St George ever wore the cross, or even visited England. He almost certainly was not called George! The exact details of the life of Saint George are a mystery. He was probably an officer in the Roman army. He was also a Christian. Because of this the Roman Emperor Diocletian (224-311) sentenced him to death for refusing to give up his religion.

George was made a saint in AD 494 by Pope Gelasius (410 -496), the feast day of Saint George is celebrated on 23 April, this was possibly the date of his martyrdom. Following the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, Saint George's Day became one of the most important feast days in the English calendar.

Make a Knight's Helmet

One of the most famous stories about St. George is almost certainly not true. It is that while he was on his adventures he killed a dragon. It was thought that he dressed in armour. Here is our version of what St George might have worn**.**
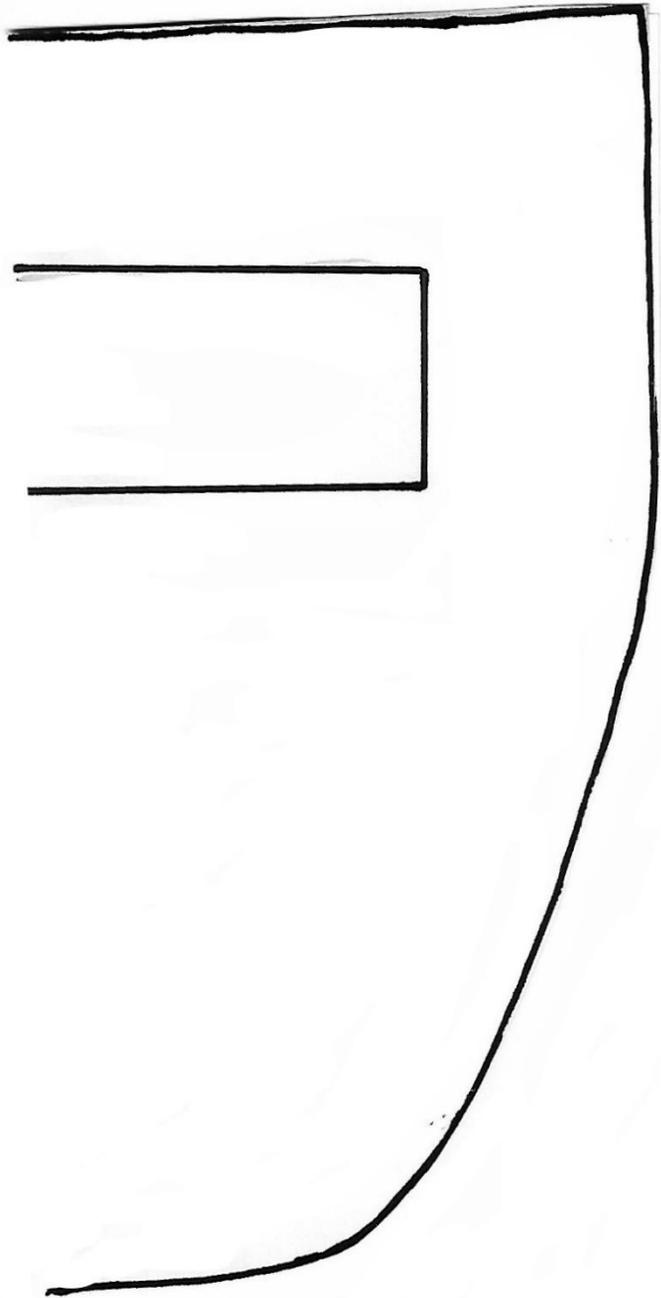
You will need:
A piece of coloured card, a Knight's helmet
template (see below), scissors, streamers made
from tissue or thin paper

Also string, tape and glue

Here's how:

- Take your piece of coloured card and fold it longways down the centre.
- Put your template on the card so that the longest side of the template is on the fold. Carefully draw around you template.
- Cut through both sides of card and open it out. You have made your helmet shape.
- Attach the string with the tape to hold the helmet on your head.
- Now colour and decorate your hat with streamers, dragon pictures or your own special design.

Make a Handy Dragon!

You will need: card, pencil, scissors, glue, colours to decorate your dragon.

How to make a dragon:

Put your hand on the card and draw around it. If it is too difficult get someone to help you. Don't worry if it is not too neat. You can do this a few times. The more hands you use the longer your dragon.

Lay out your dragon like the picture above. You can move the hands around until you are happy. Now you can stick the hands together to form the body of the dragon.

Next you can add details like legs, wings, a head or a tail. You might even add on some scales. Who knows what your dragon will look like! Try not to make him too fierce!

Well Done! You have made a Handy Dragon!