Craft colourful peace flags

Make a string of decorative flags to celebrate the International Day of Peace on 21 September.

These fun flags, inspired by traditional prayer flags, are a great way to mark the International Day of Peace. Also known as World Peace Day, it's all about promoting peace around the world. Traditional prayer flags are often used in Buddhism, a religion based on the teachings of Buddha. It's thought that Buddhist monks believed the wind would carry the blessings they wrote on their flags to other people. The flags are said to spread peace, compassion, strength and wisdom. Symbols often featured on them include the dragon, which symbolises protection, and the snow lion, which represents joy and fearlessness.

Once you've made your flags with your own designs, you can hang them in a breeze by a window or door, or outside on a dry day, to carry good wishes and spread positive energy in the wind.



What you need

- Kitchen towel sheets
- A bin liner or some plastic bags
- Paints
- Plates or mixing trays
- A large brush
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue
- String



1 Place pieces of kitchen towel on top of a bin liner or flattened plastic bags. Mix some paint with water, then dab onto the kitchen towel.



2 Paint more kitchen towels in different colours for the backgrounds and any shapes you want to cut out. Once dry, peel from the plastic sheet.



3 Choose your flag backgrounds, then fold over 1–2cm along the top of each piece. Run your fingers along the folds to make straight creases.



4 Cut out letters, symbols and simple shapes in different colours. Choose contrasting colours to make them stand out, or outline with pens.



5 Glue the shapes to the backgrounds for your flag designs. Add small pieces as decoration and thin strips for borders. Leave to dry.



6 Brush glue inside the fold of your flag. Place a long piece of string in the crease. Press the edge over the string. Repeat with more flags.

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