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# ACTIVITY: Morse Code Messaging.

## Teacher Notes:

This is a quick activity that should take about 10-15 minutes.

Using the attached Morse Code alphabet, students can work in pairs to send and decipher Morse Code messages to one another. These messages could be written down or transmitted with a torch.

## STEM Development:

There is the option to combine this activity with work on circuits.

Students could make a series circuit using a buzzer. They could transmit the dots and dashes by making contact with the buzzer using the end of the wire; a quick tap for the dot or more sustained press for the dash.

Alternatively, this could also be done with a circuit using a buzzer and a switch, depending on equipment available.

In this pack you will find:

- Information about how to transmit words and letters in Morse Code
- A copy of the International Morse Code alphabet
- Some examples of phrases in Morse Code.

Morse code is an alphabet in which the letters and numbers are represented by a combination of dots and/or dashes.

For instance, the letter A is a dot and a dash: · –

The letter S just uses dots: ···

The letter M just uses dashes: – –

**You could send a Morse Code message by writing it, using the alphabet on the next page.**

**You could also send a Morse Code message by flashing a torch light – use a short flash for the ‘dot’ and a longer flash for the ‘dash’.**

**You will need a copy of the alphabet, and so will you partner/group who are decoding your message (unless you’re an expert...!)**

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### **Morse Code and Aerial Warfare in World War I:**

Wireless transmitters allowed aircrew to send Morse Code messages to those on the ground.

Wireless communication between aircrew and those working ground was a critical development during World War I.

Aircrew would have Morse Code transmitters in the aircraft, meaning they could send short messages in Morse Code to those on the ground.

It would take some time before aircrew could receive messages back from those on the ground. Ground crew would send a signal, such as laying out material in the shape of the letter ‘F’ to signal to the aircrew that they had received their wireless message.

# International Morse Code

1. The length of a dot is one unit.
2. A dash is three units.
3. The space between parts of the same letter is one unit.
4. The space between letters is three units.
5. The space between words is seven units.

A ● —  
 B — ● ● ●  
 C — ● — ●  
 D — ● ●  
 E ●  
 F ● ● — ●  
 G — — ●  
 H ● ● ● ●  
 I ● ●  
 J ● — — —  
 K — ● —  
 L ● — ● ●  
 M — —  
 N — ●  
 O — — —  
 P ● — — ●  
 Q — — ● —  
 R ● — ●  
 S ● ● ●  
 T —

U ● ● —  
 V ● ● ● —  
 W ● — —  
 X — ● ● —  
 Y — ● — —  
 Z — — ● ●

1 ● — — —  
 2 ● ● — — —  
 3 ● ● ● — —  
 4 ● ● ● ● —  
 5 ● ● ● ● ●  
 6 — ● ● ● ●  
 7 — — ● ● ●  
 8 — — — ● ●  
 9 — — — — ●  
 0 — — — — —

## Some examples you could send...

Coming in to land

— • — • — — — — — — • • — • — — •

• • — •

— — — — —

• — • • • — — — • — • — • •

Enemy sighted.

• — • • — — — — — • — — — —

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Cloud cover increasing

— • — • • — • • — — — — • • — — — • •

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