

Newsletter

Dearest Parents,

This Sunday marks 100 years since the **Armistice** was signed in November 1918, bringing an end to the **First World War**.

Why do people wear poppies for Armistice Day?

The Royal British Legion has run its Poppy Appeal since 1921, importing American academic Moina Michael's idea of sporting handmade silk poppies, to raise money for living servicemen and women.

Taking inspiration from the 1915 poem "In Flanders Fields" by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, the bright red wildflower was chosen as a symbol of hope because it once grew in the fields torn apart by shellfire and tank tracks where many fallen soldiers met their end.

Wilfred Owen also addressed the contrast between the beauty of the countryside and the gore of battle in his 1918 poem "Spring Offensive".

This year, multiple poppies have been used to build impressive installations at churches and statues around the country. The sea of red currently filling the moat of the Tower of London is just one example.

The Imperial War Museum's "Weeping Window" display, the war horse in the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral and the leaf-shaped messages hanging in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, are particularly resonant.

The attached video clip is really useful for showing younger children to help them understand what poppies are all about.

<https://www.facebook.com/194575130577797/posts/1844727215562572/...>

Why is the significance of 11-11-11?

Armistice Day was declared on 11 November 1918 and Big Ben sounded on the hour at 11am – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

This weekend's two-minute silence will commence at precisely that time, marking exactly 100 years to the second the First World War came to an end.

At Finham we pay our respects and remember this very important moment by showing the children the attached video and then recreating the famous 'Christmas Truce,' with a Teacher v Children Football Match.

<https://youtu.be/NWF2JBb1bvM>

We are brought to silence at 11 am by the sound of 'The Last Post,' beautifully played on the Cornet by Mrs. Thompson. The silence is brought to an end with then playing of 'The Reveille' and we all walk calmly and thoughtfully back to our classes.

We will remember! <https://youtu.be/EDS3TxtGaQ0>

Kindest regards

Richard Machin

CHILDREN IN NEED – FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

We will be supporting Children in Need in 2 ways this year. I have met with various children with lots of great ideas and we have decided we would like to have a 'Spotty Day' and a 'Colour Run.'

Spotty Day - Children are encouraged to come in non-school uniform and as spotty as they like with a donation of £1.

Colour Run - At 3 pm, children wishing to take part in a Colour Run. This will involve them doing their daily mile. Children will need to bring a donation of £1 if they want to take part and clothes you think will be appropriate for the event. Please see attached video as an example. <https://vimeo.com/279846531>

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL – YEAR 5

A Tanzaku Wind Chime Peace Poem Display is now up in Coventry Cathedral. It has work from our Year 5 children and is part of a linking project with Hiroshima in Japan. It is only up over the weekend before it travels to the Japanese Embassy then onto the UNESCO site in Hiroshima - it is stunning - well worth a visit.

PATTERNED ADULT SOCKS

Mrs Bracken would like donations of clean adult patterned socks, if you have any please bring them to the school office, many thanks

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY AND CHRISTMAS DINNER

Advance notice, we are having Christmas dinner on Wednesday 19th December and you will be able to wear a Christmas jumper. We will be looking for a donation but we will send out information nearer the time.

PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

On Thursday 22nd November from 9.30am - 11.00am we are having a coffee morning with the Primary Mental Health Team who are coming into school to deliver an introduction to mental health in schools. This is an extremely informative session, and is open to parents of all children throughout the school, and we would be delighted if you would join us for a coffee. The following week, the 27th November will be a follow up consultation session for any specific issues or questions raised.

If you have any questions concerning this, please call school and speak with Kath Duffy.

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 14th November – Year 6 Inspire Workshop

Friday 16th November – Children in Need (see note above)