



# SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



## **Welcome**

*Read by a Pupil*

Today we remember those who have died during war and the great sacrifices millions have made to protect our safety and freedom. We remember also those they leave behind, their families and friends who too have paid a very great sacrifice.

## **Introductory Reflection**

*Read by The Head*

All of the things we enjoy in life are gifts; our family and friends, our gifts and talents, our possessions and all the things we treasure.

Throughout our lives let us never forget that in order that we might enjoy these pleasures, others have given something far more valuable and something we treasure above all of these, their lives.

Today we remember those who have died during war and the great sacrifices millions have made to protect our safety and freedom. We remember also those they leave behind, their families and friends who too have paid a very great sacrifice. May we always remember those who serve us in whatever way and be grateful for their generosity and may we in turn look to serve others in whatever way we can.

## **War Letter**

*Read by a pupil and member of staff*



## **Bidding Prayers**

*Read by pupils*

Response to each invocation

*Let there be peace.*

That our country may continue its leadership role as peacekeepers throughout the world and do all it can to support the weak and oppressed. Lord hear us...

That everyone throughout the world may know peace and freedom as we do in England, especially children whose lives are affected by war. Lord hear us...

We pray that all countries of the world, affected by war may find peace through the loving, generous and courageous example of their leaders. Lord hear us...

That we in our school community may continue to treat each other with respect and dignity, so that we may live peaceably together. Lord hear us...

May the Holy Spirit help us to think and act as Jesus would have in all that we say and do. Lord hear us...

Let us say together the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi; the prayer for peace.

Let us reflect on the world around us and do all we can to build peace among all nations:  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is discord, harmony;  
Where there is error, truth;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

## **Reflection**

*Member of Staff*

## **Laying of the Wreath**

Pupils

The Head Boy and boys from the Pre-Prep, Middle School, Upper School and Boarding Community will lay a wreath in memory of those who have died in the service of their country and in conflicts around the world.

## **For The Fallen**

Read by a Pupil

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

All: We will remember them.

## **Trench Whistle 'Over the Top'**

Played by pupils

## **Moment of Silence** (2 mins)

## **Reveille**

Played by a Pupil

## **A Reflection by Dr Martin Luther King**

Read by a pupil

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. There is nothing more majestic than the determined courage of individuals willing to suffer and sacrifice for freedom and dignity."

## **Pupils' Reflection**

Read by a Pupil

As pupils, we are the next generation of adults. It is us who will be called upon to show courage. It is us who will be called upon to show compassion and it will us who will be called upon to stand up for what we believe.

We are grateful for the heroic and selfless examples of the generations who have walked before us and commit to do all that we can to be the change in world that we want to see.

## **The Blessing**

The Head

Let our leaving in silence be a mark of respect for those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

## **Leave in Silence**





Remembrance Day in the United Kingdom takes place on 11th November, with an Act of Remembrance occurring at 11 o' clock in the morning. This was the exact moment the First World War ended in 1918 – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. This day is also called Armistice Day (from the two Latin words 'Arma' which means **arms** or weapons and 'Stitia' which means **stop**)

After the initial jubilation and celebrations at the signing of the Armistice in 1918, the first and second anniversaries of the end of the First World War had a solemn (sad) rather than victorious (happy) atmosphere and focused on mourning the dead rather than celebrating victory.

The Cenotaph in Whitehall, initially a temporary structure but rebuilt in 1920 from Portland stone, quickly became the focus for events as crowds gathered to lay wreaths. 11th November 1919 saw the first observance of a minute's silence at 11 o' clock, in which the vast majority of people participated, wherever they were and whatever they were doing.

A year later (in 1920), on the same day that the permanent Cenotaph was unveiled, the Unknown Warrior was buried in Westminster Abbey to honour ordinary service personnel who had died. This period and the early 1920s was also when most of the memorials that commemorate the First World War were built, as thousands of communities paid tribute to their fallen.

However, other aspects of Remembrance Day emerged as the 1920s continued. In 1921 some ex-servicemen disrupted the Cenotaph service because they were angry at the lack of opportunity and support they had received since returning home from war and disagreed with the fact that people were remembering the dead when they felt that the survivors needed help. At the same time, some young people began holding celebrations on November 11th to celebrate the fact that the war was over and they could have fun once again.

During the Second World War, Remembrance commemorations declined as focus switched from remembering the previous war to fighting the current one, and after 1945 both wars were remembered during services that were held on the Sunday closest to November 11th.

After the 2nd World War people did not focus so much on celebrating this day but towards the end of the twentieth century there was a resurgence of interest in the First World War. This was partly due to declining numbers of veterans and the publication of various books concerning the conflict. This, and the

fact that the UK's involvement in more recent conflicts has brought the subject sharply back into focus, has contributed to Remembrance Day being given a higher profile once more.

In the 1990s the two minute silence began to be held on 11th November itself, regardless of whether it was a Sunday or not. Remembrance therefore became a more integral part of daily life on that day once more.



*The Cenotaph in London*



*Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey,*