



# Remembrance – Presentation Notes

## Slide 1 – Welcome Slide/Introduction

- **Good morning...**
- Thank the school for inviting you in (*for non teachers only*)
- Introduce yourself and your job role (*for non teachers only*)

## Slide 2 – Remembrance

- **Definition:** Remembrance is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as:
  - The act of remembering something.
  - The action of remembering the dead.
  - A memory or recollection of something from the past.

### Examples:

- We remember both happy and sad moments in our lives – we might remember a fun holiday we had, something funny our friend did or we may remember when we were sad about something we had lost.
- We remember people we loved who are no longer with us.

## Slide 3 – The End of the Great War

- Many wars had come before, with a great loss of life and toll on the nation.
- During the First World War (also known as the Great War, World War One, 14/18 War) 750,000 UK soldiers died during the conflict.
- The country was devastated by the loss.
- On the 11th November 1918 the Armistice was signed which brought an end to the First World War.
- 2018 marks 100 years since the end of World War One.

## Slide 4 – Remembrance Day

- Since the end of World War One, Remembrance Day has been marked on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month at the eleventh hour every year. This is when the Armistice was signed.
- Remembrance Day is the 11th November. It is a day on which we remember all those who were killed in conflicts such as WWI, WWII, Korea, Falklands, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq...
- Remembrance Day is also a time to remember those who were injured or affected by conflicts.
- The 11th November does not always fall on a Sunday so Remembrance Day is the Sunday nearest to 11 November.

## Slide 5 – Acts of Remembrance

- People chose to remember in many different ways.
- There is no right or wrong way to remember.
  - Many people wear poppies.
  - People lay wreaths and other tributes beside war memorials. (Regional: Mention local war memorials)
  - The Queen or her representative lay the first wreath at the Cenotaph, London.



- A 2 minute silence is held at 11am. This is observed by many people in churches, work places, supermarkets...
- Westminster Abbey has a 'Field of Remembrance' where people plant crosses to remember those who have lost their lives. (Regional: Mention local Fields of Remembrance)
- Parades are held up and down the country.

## **Slide 6 – The Poppy: A symbol of Remembrance**

- Transition slide
- Why is a Poppy used as a symbol of Remembrance?

## **Slide 7 – The Battlefield**

- The battlefields of World War One were of total devastation.
- Miles of bare earth and mud created by the constant bombardment from shells.
- There were no trees or flowers and buildings had been reduced to ruins.
- Nothing would grow.
- It would look very different to what you see when you go to the park.
- However, poppies began to grow! Poppy seeds can lay dormant in the ground for many years and then spring back to life and germinate when the soil is disturbed.

## **Slide 8 – Lt Col John McCrae**

- Lt Col John McCrae was a Canadian Doctor and Surgeon during the First World War
- In 1915, he was stationed in Flanders, Belgium and his job was to look after those who were wounded in battle.
- At the second battle of Ypres in 1915, he lost a very dear friend of his. He was devastated by this loss and at a time when he was very sad and down he realised that the poppies were growing.
- He wrote the poem 'In Flanders' Fields.
- 'In Flanders Fields' reflects the devastation and loss of war.
- It is one of the most widely known war poems for Remembrance.
- The poem is often read during acts of Remembrance.
- Lt Col John McCrae never knew how famous his poem would become as he sadly died of pneumonia shortly after writing the poem.

## **Slide 9 – In Flanders Fields**

- Read the poem.

## **Slide 10 – Moina Michael**

- Moina Michael was an American Teacher. She visited Europe in 1914 and was in Germany when WW1 broke out.
- In 1917, she was a Professor at the University of Georgia when the United States entered WW1.
- In November 1918, was inspired by Lt Col John McCrae's poem 'In Flanders Fields' and wrote a response called 'We Shall Keep The Faith'
- As a tribute to the mention of poppies in the original poem, Moina Michael vowed to always wear a red poppy in remembrance for those who served in the war.



## Slide 11 – ‘We Shall Keep The Faith’

- Read the poem.

## Slide 12 – Last Post

- “Last Post” is a bugle call played in ceremonies commemorating the war dead, particularly on Remembrance Day in British and Commonwealth countries.
- It is normally played to signal the beginning of a two minute silence.
- The “Last Post” originally signalled that the final sentry post in a Military camp had been inspected, and that camp was secure for the night.
- “Last Post” was also played at the close of a day during battles as a call to find safety and rest for those who were still out. It signalled the fighting was over for the day.

## Slide 13 – Rouse/Reveille

- “The Rouse” or “Reveille” are played to mark the end of a two minute silence in ceremonies commemorating the war dead, particularly on Remembrance Day.
- The “Rouse” is often mistakenly referred to as “Reveille” but is shorter in length.
- Both tunes sound different.
- Both calls were originally used to get troops out of bed in the morning, a “wake up” call.

## Slide 14 – Two Minute Silence

- During ceremonies commemorating the war dead, particularly on Remembrance Day in British and Commonwealth countries many people take part in a two minutes silence.
- A time for silent reflection.
- A two minute silence is held each year at 11.00am on 11 November, the silence coincides with the time in 1918 when the First World War came to an end.
- It is generally observed at war memorials and in public places throughout the UK and Commonwealth.
- You might observe the silence in at school, work, in a supermarket etc...
- The place does not matter.
- A two-minute silence is also observed on Remembrance Sunday, also at 11.00am
- Play “Last Post”
- Hold Two-minute silence
- Play “Rouse/Reveille”
- Could discuss how it makes you feel?
- What did you remember?
- Links – You may want to download versions of the Last Post and Rouse/Reveille beforehand in case of no internet access (as a backup).



## Slide 15 – Poems of Remembrance

- “For The Fallen” by Lawrence Binyon (1914)
  - Was written in honour of the casualties in the opening phase of the war on the Western Front.
  - “For The Fallen” is also known as “Ode to Remembrance” and is read at ceremonies of Remembrance.
  - It is one verse (stanza) of a longer poem.
- “The Epitaph” by John Maxwell Edmonds
  - Commemorates the fallen of a battle during the Second World War in 1944.
  - It is normally read as part of Remembrance services.

## Slide 16 – For The Fallen & The Epitaph

- Read the poems.

## Slide 17 – Any Questions?

- Audience questions.

## Slide 18 – Red, White & Blue Day

- Closing slide.
- Information.