

Collective Worship (class-based)

Prior to this, why not ask pupils to talk to their families about memories, photos and objects from the First World War? Pupils might like to share what they found out!

Activity One

Read as a class 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae. (<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/poems/john-mccrae-in-flanders-fields.htm>). Talk about the meaning of some of the vocabulary.

Q: Which lines stand out for you the most? Why?

Focus in on the last stanza:

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Q: What could we interpret the torch we have been given as being?

Q: On reading this poem, why do you think many people wear red poppies?

Watch this video (up to 2:50): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8Jv0T9eFUU>

Activity Two

Show a white remembrance poppy on the board. What do you think this represents? Who might it remember? (These are traditionally used to represent victims away from the frontline and a commitment to a peaceful future).



Activity Three

As a variation of the 'prayer kite' display idea (a visual symbol of prayers going to God), create a class display showing red and white poppies growing.

- Provide a red or white template to pupils, working individually or in pairs.
- Pupils to create a Hannah Dunnett style piece of artwork (<https://www.benandhannahdunnett.com/artwork/>) within their template. Which images will they create?
- On red poppies, pupils can write prayers of remembrance, and on the white poppies prayers for peace. They might also like to include extracts from WWI poetry, biblical verses and their own prayers/hopes/wishes.

Once these are on display, give pupils a chance to read these silently, before asking pupils if they would like to offer their prayers up to God.

Bible verse suggestions

John 15:13 –

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Isaiah 66:12 –

For thus says the LORD, "Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; And you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees. "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you will be comforted in Jerusalem." Then you will see this, and your heart will be glad, And your bones will flourish like the new grass; And the hand of the LORD will be made known to His servants...

Galatians 5: 22-23 –

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 –

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

Psalms 29:11 –

The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Micah 4:1-5 –

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.
Many nations will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
Everyone will sit under their own vine
and under their own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the LORD Almighty has spoken.
All the nations may walk
in the name of their gods,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD
our God for ever and ever.

Alternatively...

Why not ask the class to create their own 'Tower of London Poppy Remembrance' somewhere on the school site (these could be made, or planted)? Each poppy could represent those in the local community who lost their lives in conflict. An exploration of the local war memorial could be used, or names found via this website:

<http://www.roll-of-honour.com/>

Prayers can be written and read, and a performance of 'Where the poppies now grow' performed.

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/remembrance-day-powerpoint-11516146>