

Newsletter



'Do the right thing to be the best you can be'...

12th November 2021

Remembrance Day, lest we forget...



More than 250 children, staff, governors and special visitors joined together in an act of remembrance yesterday morning just before 11am, on 11th November, to remember those who had died in past and present wars or conflicts, not just World War I, and their service and sacrifice in defending our freedoms and protecting our way of life.

We shared the history of Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday and the symbolism of the acts of remembrance and the poppies, still growing in Flanders Fields today. The children all read the poem In Flanders Fields by John McCrae, in unison, followed by a modern day poem, Why Wear A Poppy by Don Crawford, read by Mrs Paul, Head Teacher and Mrs Deeley, Deputy Head Teacher.

War affects people and communities in different ways. We shared how in recent years, different coloured poppies have been used to represent this as well as the diversity of the soldiers involved in many wars gone by, having come from many different backgrounds, cultures, nationalities and religions. Perhaps you may like to help your child to research this further to share with their teacher.

We talked of children's right to life, and that during wars, some people lose their own lives to protect the lives of children and it is important that we remember their sacrifice. That if we forget about wars that have protected our way of life, we might make the same mistakes again - we want a more

peaceful future for our children - and the generations to come. The choir gave us all some reflection time with their beautiful rendition of Fields of Gold.

We all held the two minute silence, first introduced by King George in 1919, to commemorate all those who had lost their lives to the war. The children were extremely respectful and behaviour was impeccable - we were all extremely proud of them as young citizens and role models and wanted to share this with you. The silence was ended by The Last Post, ably played by Mrs Schwartz our Music Leader, followed by a prayer from Mrs Beirne, our Chair of Governors and a blessing from Rev Liz, who sang Make Me A Channel of Your Peace.

The Head and Deputy Head Learner will be laying a poppy wreath at the cenotaph in Pelsall, on Sunday morning, as our representatives of Ryders Hayes School.

by Sally Miner (a very proud Exec Head Teacher)



Lest We Forget

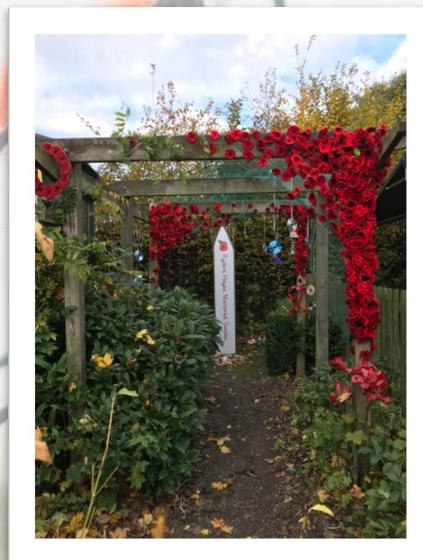
IN MEMORY OF JACKIE LUDLOW...

We also spent time reflecting on the incredible contribution made by Jackie Ludlow, a loyal friend and volunteer at Ryders Hayes for 44 years, who sadly passed away this summer. Her 3 daughters joined our Remembrance Service, who were all former pupils themselves, along with Mr Hughes (Member Governor and former teacher at Ryders Hayes) and Mrs Slights, (also former teacher) both of whom had worked with Mrs Ludlow for many years. After our Remembrance Service we planted a Viburnum shrub in memory of Jackie and Mr Day fixed a special plaque beside it so that she would always be remembered for her many acts of kindness and love across almost half a century at Ryders Hayes.



KS1 Remembrance

KS1 commemorated Armistice Day by holding a Remembrance Service in our classrooms. We all joined together online and talked about why we wear poppies at this time of the year. We also discussed who we remember and why. We thought about people who were all over the world in conflict now and in the past. We held a 2 minutes silence at 11am to remember and think about them. At the end of the 2 minutes we listened to Mrs Schwartz play 'The Last Post'. All of the children were respectful and well behaved throughout.



Poppy display in our Remembrance Garden.