



The Story Of The Poppy

visit us online

www.dizkis.co.uk

For More Fun

The children were sitting on the floor in their school assembly and the whole room was silent. Everybody had their heads lowered and their eyes closed and nobody spoke. It was the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month and the country was holding a minutes silence for all of the soldiers who had bravely lost their lives fighting in World War One.

All of the teachers and children were wearing poppies in remembrance of the soldiers, and during the silence they took a moment to think of and pray for those who had died in the war. A lady had come in especially today to speak at the assembly to teach Millie and Michael and their school about how Remembrance Day, or Poppy Day came about. Her name was Gladis and she had lost her husband during the war.

“The First World War ended almost one hundred years ago on November the 11th in 1918 and the final gunfire had stopped at 11:11am which is why we are gathered here in a school assembly the mark the moment.

Some people call today Armistice Day which means an ‘agreement’ as it is the mark of two enemies stopping fighting. And others call today Poppy Day because it is a day to wear poppies in remembrance of soldiers who have died fighting for our freedom. It all began when a doctor called John McCrea was helping injured soldiers in France during the first world war. He saw all of the terrible fighting and wrote a very famous poem about how after all of the blood shed beautiful poppies grew ontop of the graves of the soldiers who had died.

An American poet called Moina Michael saw this special poem and decided she would use poppies to remember those who had died, and also she helped those who had fought and survived by selling the poppies to raise money for ex-soldiers too. The first official Poppy Day was then held by the Royal British Legion in 1921. The poppy has since become a symbol for the soldiers who have died in battle, because they were the only flowers to grow on battlefields after the war, their bright red colour symbolises the blood that has been lost for soldiers who have died, and they only live for a short time, just like the lives that were cut short in battle.

So every year on November the 11th please remember to wear your poppy with pride, remember those brave men and boys who gave their lives to save ours, and help us to give something back to those who fought and survived. Thank you.”

All of the children and teachers stood up as they clapped, with their poppies on their school jumpers, row upon row, just like the beautiful battlefields which are now at peace.