



Remembrance Day

Secondary Assembly

Resources:

PowerPoint presentation

Aim:

To reflect on why we stop and remember today

Introduction

Introduce yourself to the pupils and welcome them to the assembly.

Activity

Explain that first of all today we are going to think of how we sometimes forget. Go through the slides and ask the pupils to put up their hands if they have ever forgotten something important:

Homework

Family member's birthday

Something a friend was going through

Something someone has done for you

But why do we forget important things? I forget things because sometimes I'm too busy with other things; I think other things are more important, or I don't set myself any reminders that I need. It's easy to forget - we can all do it. But sometimes we need to make sure that we don't forget, because some things are too important to miss.

Life is so busy, there is so much we need to do or want to do. In life there's a time to work hard, a time to achieve your dreams, a time to celebrate achievements and have fun with the people you love. But there's also a time to stop the busyness, to stop doing and just remember something that is important. This is why we make two minutes' silence a priority today - so that we stop and so that we don't forget.

But what is it we are remembering today?

Today we remember everyone who has been affected by conflicts.

Story

During the First World War millions of young men lost their lives. These men believed that they were fighting for a better future for the people they left behind. The pain and destruction of that loss devastated a generation as they tried to rebuild their lives and communities. Since the end of the First World War we make sure that the people who gave their lives, both in this conflict and in others, are never forgotten, by taking time on this day to remember them.





Remembrance Day

Secondary Assembly

We remember the people who were willing to give up their future; we stop and look outside of our own dreams and goals, and think of those who didn't get the chance to fulfil their dreams.

The Salvation Army tries to work to bring peace in people's lives, whether that is supporting people who have been affected by war or trying to help people who have been living with difficult personal circumstances. In the Bible it says that God can give us peace:

'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'

John 14:27 NIV

Peace doesn't come easily, but this tells us that we don't need to be troubled or afraid. When we remember difficult things like the reality of war, it can be hard; but facing and trying to understand difficult things, rather than trying to pretend they don't exist, can help us feel a little bit more human. Sad things can happen in life. But in reflecting and remembering we can find some peace.

Response

We're going to have our time of silence, and in that time we shall remember those people who have given their lives in war. Think about what it must have been like for those who gave up their hopes and dreams, believing that it would help others live a full life. Let's remember.

(During the time of silence leave the images from slide 7 showing)

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the freedom we have. As we remember those who have given their lives in war, we pray for peace throughout the world. We pray for those affected by war today; we pray that you would comfort and protect them. We ask that in the midst of suffering people would know your love. Help us to be peace-makers in our school, in our families and in our wider community.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

