

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Our Autumn term topic is Lest We Forget.

During this topic we will be experiencing what life was like over 100 years ago.

Known as 'the war to end all wars' the First World War was a conflict that had a devastating effect on millions of people across the world.

What started this global tragedy? What was life like for families on the home front as they waited for news of loved ones who were 'missing in action'? How was a fragile peace finally achieved?

We will always remember the fallen.

Here are the key facts that we will be exploring this term with some useful vocabulary we will be referring to.

Topic Overview

During this topic, the children will immerse themselves into what life was like 100 years ago. This will be through drama and research lessons, where the children will look into how homes, schools, clothes and games were during this time. Archie's war scrapbook will be a feature text that the children will become familiar with over this topic as it draws on lots of different aspects of life before, during and after the war.

The children will have a dress up day where they will see first-hand what school was like 100 years ago. During this time, the teachers will receive a telegram where war has been declared. The children will follow on from this with some diary writing based on thoughts and feelings about war.

Following on from this, the children will be thinking about the war and what happened to cause this war by looking at a timeline of events that lead to this.



**Pilton Bluecoat
Academy**

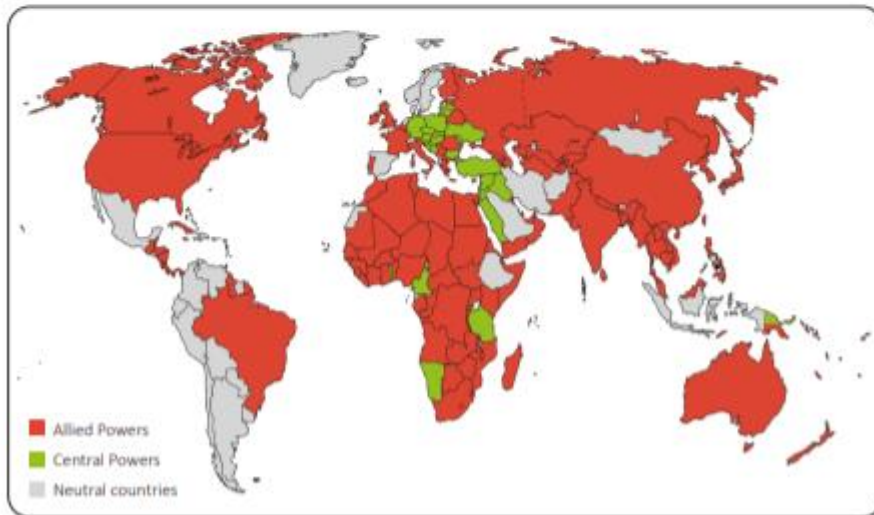


Before the war

In the early 1900s, Britain was one of the world's most powerful nations and had a large empire. British politicians wanted to avoid wars, there had been a period of peace in Europe. However, Germany was becoming a cause for concern, ruled by an ambitious kaiser who was envious of Britain's military strength.

Warring countries

The war was fought between two groups: the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire) and the Allied and Associated Powers (27 countries, including Britain and its dominions, France, Russia, Japan, Portugal and Italy). Britain's dominions included Australia, Canada, the Indian subcontinent, New Zealand, Newfoundland, South Africa and parts of the Caribbean and Africa.



Life on the home front

The war changed the lives of ordinary people around the world. In Britain, rationing, bombing and strikes by discontented workers made life difficult for people living on the home front. New jobs were created to help with the war effort, including jobs for women that had previously been done by the men who had gone to fight. Women worked in munition factories making bombs and weapons, drove public transport, grew crops and took care of livestock, joined the policeforce and undertook non-combative roles in the armed forces. Some men stayed at home because they refused to fight for moral reasons. They were known as conscientious objectors and were often treated harshly.



The poppy is a symbol of remembrance. During the First World War, poppies grew on barren land, such as old battlefields. A Canadian doctor called Lt Col John McCrae was inspired by the sight of the poppies to write a famous poem called *In Flanders Fields* after his friend died at Ypres. After the war, the poppy became an official symbol of remembrance. There are war cemeteries close to the battlefields, and many countries have memorials for the dead soldiers whose identities are unknown, such as the Grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey, London.

Glossary

alliances Groups of countries that promise to protect and support each other.

Allied and Associated Powers Allied Powers signed treaties with Britain, France and Russia, while Associated Powers joined them more informally.

armistice An agreement, made by both sides in a war, to stop fighting and discuss ways to make peace.

artillery Large, heavy guns used in land warfare.

assassination The killing of a prominent person, often for political or religious reasons.

Central Powers Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire.

home front The civilians living in a country at war.

kaiser The German emperor.

propaganda Information, especially biased or misleading, used to promote a political cause or point of view.

Treaty of Versailles A peace treaty signed at the end of the First World War, which blamed Germany for the conflict and listed its punishments.

