World War 1

Year 5 — Autumn Term 2—2026

What's it all about?

This topic explores World War 1. We will be looking at the key events that lead up to the outbreak of war and what life was like during it, both for soldiers and those who stayed behind then finally looking at who won the war and the after effects. We can't wait to begin our new topic!







Historians: Come with us as we discover the key events that lead to the start of WW1 and the alliances that were formed. We will be finding out why people decided to sign up to fight and what happened to those who didn't.. We will finish by looking at how the war ended and the memorials that have been built to remember those who lost their lives fighting for their country.

Geographers: We will be looking at maps of Europe and which countries were affected by the war, both during and afterwards. We will also develop skills that soldiers would have needed such as map reading and using compass directions.

Readers: We'll be focusing on developing our reading strategies with a particular focus on evaluating, summarising and making connections and also our reading stamina. We will be encouraging the children to continue to read regularly at home.

Spellers: Our focused spelling patterns this half-term will be words with a silent t, words ending in –ibly and –ably, words ending in –ent and words from the Year 5 and 6 Spelling list.

Writers: We will be reading 'Stay where you are and then Leave' by John Boyne and writing our own diary entries, information texts and arguments based on the story. We will then move on to look at the poetry book 'What are we fighting for?' By Brian Moses and Roger Stevens where our focus will be on poetry, in particular looking at War poems..

Mathematicians: The Maths topics this half-term are: Multiplication and Division and fractions. The children will be encouraged to regularly practise their times tables.

Musicians: We will be focusing on music from WW1 and song writing.

RE: We will be finding out what Christians believe about creation.

Artists: Creating a scene of remembrance, designing and creating their own poppy pictures and some Christmas art activities.

Scientists: We will be looking at the topic of Materials and their properties.

Family Learning Ideas: Visit The Imperial War Museum, attend a Remembrance Day service/parade, look at a local War memorial—there is one in the centre of Woking and in Knaphill.

The Hermitage Value of the half term is Respect. This includes: being mindful, tolerance, consideration, thoughtfulness, patience and equality.

Trips/in-school visits: We will be walking to the war cemetery in Brookwood to have a look at the WW1 war graves. The Christmas Pantomime is coming into school on November 25th. The Year 5 and 6 carol concert at St Johns church is on 4th December.

Inspiring Everyone To Learn