

SPECIAL REPORTby **Dan Jordan****FirstNews FINDS OUT**

What is Remembrance Day?

REMEMBRANCE Sunday is on 11 November, but what do people do to remember? And who are we remembering? Remembrance Day has been observed for almost 100 years, so we decided to investigate why. **First News** finds out...

What is Remembrance Day?

Remembrance Day is a memorial day. It takes place on 11 November every year in Commonwealth countries, to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty since the end of World War I. People wear red remembrance poppies to show that they have not forgotten the members of the armed forces who have died in service.



Queen Elizabeth II paying her respects at the Cenotaph in Whitehall

Why are poppies used as the symbol for remembrance?

In Flanders Fields is a war poem written during the First World War by a Canadian Lieutenant Colonel called John McCrae. In the poem, McCrae talks about poppies on the ground and how the brilliant red of their petals is similar to the blood of the fallen soldiers, so that's why poppies are used as the symbol of Remembrance Day.

How is Remembrance Day observed?

The most common tradition observed on Remembrance Day is a one or two-minute silence at 11am. This is important because it marks the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year, and the number 11 is so important because the gunfire in World War I ended on 11 November 1918. The first two-minute

silence was held in London in 1919, and its beginning and end is often marked by the firing of a ceremonial cannon (or field gun).

What's the difference between Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday?

Remembrance Day is always on 11 November because it symbolises the day that the gunfire in the First World War ended. Every year there is a one-minute or two-minute silence held at 11am on Remembrance Day. Remembrance Sunday is the second Sunday of November, and it is observed in a much more ceremonial way. Every Remembrance Sunday there is a march led through London, where people pay their respects by laying poppy wreaths on the Cenotaph in Whitehall. A period of silence is also held on Remembrance Sunday, as well as the period of silence every 11 November. This year, Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday, so both events can be observed on the same day.



A young boy carries a poppy wreath in a Remembrance Sunday march



Chloe and Nicole reading with their dad over a video call

A LOT has changed in the century that has passed between the First World War and today. In the trenches, WWI soldiers would write poetry to pass the time, but now today's soldiers can keep up-to-date with their families thanks to technology. Chloe and Nicole Edmonds wrote to us to tell us about their father who is currently serving in Afghanistan, and a scheme called Reading Force that helps families with parents serving in the forces stay in touch by reading books together. Chloe and Nicole read *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney with their dad, but they had to finish it off over a video call because their dad had to go to Afghanistan while they were reading it! Find their report online at www.firstnews.co.uk.