



News from Whitchurch C of E Primary School

On Thursday 6th June, we joined the nation in commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Our Key Stage 2 pupils explored this event in their class worship, reflecting on the courage and bravery of the soldiers involved and how this was such a significant turning point in World War II. The pupils' discussions were thoughtful and mature, with comments on how young some of the soldiers were, how huge the sacrifice was, and how grateful they are for what those who gave their lives did for us. Our Jaguars class said, 'It puts our worries into perspective,' and our Tigers posed a really big question, 'How do evil people come to have so much power?' – not an easy one to answer!

Alongside the discussions taking place at school, I was also fortunate to take a group of Year 5 pupils down into the town to join in the act of remembrance for those who gave their lives during this momentous event. The drizzle began as we left the school grounds, but thankfully gave way to some kinder weather as we gathered in front of the Town Hall joining members of the community, the Royal British Legion, representatives from Testbourne, the local council, and the cadets. The mayor, resplendent in her scarlet robes, introduced the proceedings and Rev. David led prayers. I was incredibly proud of our pupils as they contributed to the service, reading a poem about D-Day with confidence and clarity, and navigating some quite tricky vocabulary and rhyming couplets! All who spoke battled through the noise of the passing traffic, but, as I recall, and it may have just been the solemnity of the moment, things did fall still for the silence, as we all reflected, holding in our minds whatever image or person we think of when we recall the sacrifice made and the gift we have been given as a result – that of freedom.

When the event drew to a close, there was, in very British form, a cup of tea and the cutting of a spectacular cake. Our pupils were more than happy to sample this and to receive a lovely badge each, commemorating the occasion. They really enjoyed being part of this event and it gave them that moment to pause and think, alongside their community, about those who gave their tomorrow for our today.

More than Five-thousand ships, the biggest Armada ever seen.
Sailed from British shores and our fields of green.
Monty's battle plan was written, on one sheet of paper.
Set for June the Fifth, the Day of their departure.
But bad weather, caused a Twenty-four-hour delay.
Then conditions changed, and they got underway.
British, American, Canadian and many other countries, were together thrown.
Going to fight a War, something many had never known.
Over One Hundred and Fifty-Thousand men of every creed.
Will perform acts of courage, that must succeed.
There were Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and the Merchant Navy.
Many Civilians who volunteered to fight against Nazi tyranny.
Over the English Channel and to Normandy, France will go.
To land on beaches called Sword, Gold, Utah, Omaha and Juno.
Were they afraid? Yes! they most certainly were.
But the world must be saved, that was their spur.



