WADDESDON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

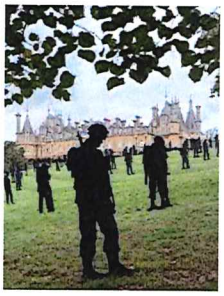
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Headteacher: Matthew Abbott

Dear Parents and Carers,

Remembrance Day – 11th November, 2026



On Wednesday, 11th November, the whole school community has been invited to participate in a very special event at Waddesdon Manor.

Waddesdon Manor is hosting the *Standing with Giants* exhibition this year. This is an incredibly moving display of 1476 silhouettes of men and women representing the D-Day landings. It reflects, in a moving, respectful and poignant manner, the sacrifices that people have made during times of war in the past, as well as honouring the veterans and servicemen and women alive today.

On 11th November, our students will walk to the Manor, to stand with veterans, Waddesdon Manor staff and their school peers and staff. The ceremony will involve the reading of the poem 'To the Fallen', the last post and reveillé played by a Waddesdon student, a short presentation by a former soldier and the choral piece, 'Earth Song' sung by the Waddesdon Choir. At the end of the ceremony, each student will 'plant' a poppy in the parterre at the south end of the Manor.



Your child(ren) may have told you that they have been assembling a poppy in memory of one of the soldiers who gave their lives during the D-Day landings. Their poppy is uniquely named and the students will be carrying their poppy in memory of a specific service person.

The school day will run as normal apart from between 10am to 12pm and lunch will be at 12pm. The weather is currently set to be fair, but a coat, scarf and gloves are essential items for November. The walking route from the school to the Manor is in good condition, and so students are expected to wear normal school shoes and school uniform. They may wear cadet uniform if they have permission to do so. The event will not go ahead if the weather is inclement, so students should bring books for all lessons in case they are needed.

If students normally carry their own medication while in school (e.g. an epi-pen and/or an inhaler), please remind them to have it with them. Students will walk in form groups, accompanied by adults and there will be first aid support along the route if needed. For those students with reduced mobility, we have arranged for a minibus to transport them to Waddesdon Manor.

This community event will be a shared moment which I believe your son or daughter will remember for a lifetime. I hope that you will encourage them to see it as such, to talk to them about what it means to carry the memory of a service person in the form of poppy that they have made, and the meaning of standing silent with over 1000 people to mark this moment.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Abbott
Headteacher, Waddesdon CE School

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