

AWARD OF THE POPPY CUP 2023

The Poppy Cup is an annual reward for a school's commitment to Remembrance throughout the year, not just the period of Remembrancetide. World War history and conflicts beyond WW2 is part of all school's national curriculum. Alfred Lord Tennyson School (formerly Alfred Street Junior School) amalgamated with Tennyson Road Infant School and is now one school operating on two sites. Poppy Appeal Organiser Ruth Miller and two other RBL Rushden Branch Members (independent of the schools and branch committee) look at all of what schools have achieved throughout the year; they are guided by Lynne Baker who is RBL Rushden Branch Secretary and Schools Liaison; Lynne is a retired art teacher and along with her husband Jake Baker who is the Branch Chairman they are also School Governors to Alfred Lord Tennyson School, so have had to stand back during the voting process. They were understandably delighted when they were informed that Alfred Lord Tennyson School won the Poppy Cup for 2023 and proceeded to arrange for a special Assembly at both sites.

The Headteacher, Mrs Kelly O'Connor kindly invited Ruth, Lynne and Jake to present the Poppy Cup. Lynne led both presentations, praising the pupils for their fundraising, having collected £219.39. She told the pupils *"You did an excellent job; you have every reason to be proud. You have no idea how much this money does to help people; your money will go towards helping veterans and their families move on with their lives and we think this school is very special."*

This is the third time the school has won the Poppy Cup but the first under their new name. The school was bombed on 3rd October 1940 during the Battle of Britain and is affiliated with RBL Rushden Branch bringing awareness to its history. During the bombing raids over Rushden, seven children were killed, and a memorial garden rests in the school premises to help current pupils to learn about how the Second World War effected their school and town. A short memorial service is held there every year.

