



## What have we learnt in this topic before and what we will learn this year?

In Year 1, the children learnt how significant people from history have affected our lives for the better.

- Significant events – Neil Armstrong 1930 - 2012 AD

In Year 2, the children learnt to develop their understanding of their own local history learning about Historical events in South Hill School and Hemel Hempstead.

- Historical events/local history – 1951 AD

In Year 6, the children will learn about the History of WWII and the impact it had on shaping Britain moving forward.

- British History beyond 1066 – World War 2 -1939 – 1945AD

### Enrichment Day

We will experience life as a child evacuee on our enrichment day. We will dress as an evacuee for the day and carry out activities such as: shelter building, code breaking, air raids, WWII dancing and letter writing.

## Battle of Britain

In July 1940, Germany planned a secret mission to invade Britain. They began by sending the Luftwaffe (German air force) to bomb British ships, airfields and other targets.



RAF (Royal Air Force) planes fought back in what were known as dogfights. Believing they were winning, the Luftwaffe moved on to bombing London on 7<sup>th</sup> September, the Luftwaffe launched another attack but the RAF fought back and it was clear that the Germans would not be able to win. This date is commemorated every year as the end of the Battle of Britain.

## Important dates

- 1939 – 1<sup>st</sup> September - German troops invade Poland
- 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Britain and France declare war on Germany
- 1940 – 10<sup>th</sup> May - The Battle of France begins
- 26<sup>th</sup> May - Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France
- 10<sup>th</sup> July - The Battle of Britain begins
- 7<sup>th</sup> September - The Blitz begins
- 1941 – 7<sup>th</sup> December - Japan bombs Pearl Harbour in the US
- 1944 – 6<sup>th</sup> June - D-Day landings
- 1945 – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> May - Germany surrenders to the Allies. VE day (Victory in Europe) is celebrated the next day
- 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August - The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Japan formally surrenders, ending the war



## Significant Leaders



Neville Chamberlain	British Prime Minister (1937-1940)
Winston Churchill	British Prime Minister (1942-1945) & (1951-1955)
Adolf Hitler	Chancellor of Germany (1933-1945)
Charles De Gaulle	Led French Resistance against Nazi Germany
Franklin D Roosevelt	President of USA (1933-1945)
Benito Mussolini	Italian Prime Minister (1922-1943)
Josef Stalin	Led the Soviet Union (mid 1920s-1953)

## Evacuation and shelters

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them.

Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain

People expected cities to be bombed, as enemy planes tried to hit targets, for example warehouses and factories. This put would have put city children (in schools and houses close by) in grave danger, and so thousands were evacuated to the countryside. Many were extremely homesick, but some enjoyed their new lives.



People needed to protect themselves from the bombs being dropped by German aircraft. As the night raids became so frequent, many people were tired of repeatedly interrupting their sleep to go back and forth to shelters, they virtually took up residence in a shelter. People has Anderson shelters in their back gardens that were 1/2buried in the ground and covered in earth to protect them from the blasts of the bombs.

## Key Vocabulary

- allies axis evacuees gas mask air raid shelter black out Luftwaffe barrage balloon trenches Nazi blitz  
 Blitzreig Enigma Neville Chamberlain Adolf Hitler Winston Churchill Battle of Britain Luftwaffe bombing