






Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary School



History Overview – *Blitzed Brits* Year 6 In-Depth Study



Core Knowledge:

<p>Invasion</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German troops invaded Poland in 1939 as Hitler wanted Germany to gain more land, power and resources. • After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany and World War II began. • The major Allied Powers were Britain, France, Russia, China and the United States and the major Axis Powers were Germany, Italy and Japan.
<p>Significant People</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the outbreak of war in 1939, Neville Chamberlain was the Prime Minister of Britain and Adolf Hitler was the leader of Germany. • Winston Churchill took over as Prime Minister of Britain in 1940 and he is significant because his leadership helped the Allies win the war.
<p>Significant Events</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham was targeted by the Germans throughout the war because it was a major industrial and manufacturing location. • The most significant air raid on Birmingham took place in November 1940. • During this air raid, bombs fell on Shirley and Solihull, causing damage and loss of life in our local area. • World War II ended in Europe in 1945 when Germany surrendered to the Allied Powers. • Victory in Europe Day, or VE Day, was a day of national celebration after six years of war.
<p>Society</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Britain, regulations were introduced to protect people during air raids including blackout regulations, air raid shelter requirements and gas mask rules. • As a result of air raid bombings, children were evacuated from major cities such as Birmingham and London to safer places in the countryside. • Children were evacuated to Solihull during the war. • Rationing was introduced by the British government because supply ships were targeted by German bombers and food was more limited. • People were issued ration books that contained coupons which had to be used when buying rationed items. • The role of women in society changed dramatically during the war. • Women took on many different and new roles during World War II as men were away fighting, including factory workers, farm hands, medical workers and military service.
<p>Legacy</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changed role of women during World War II was a catalyst for lasting changes to women's roles in society. • Buildings and memorials were built as places of remembrance, including Poppy Island, Remembrance Park, Spitfire Island and local war memorials. • Remembrance Day takes place in November each year as a time to reflect and remember, 'lest we forget'.



Historical Skills:

<p>Developing & Understanding Chronology</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain historical chronology, linking periods and events. • Use precise historical language to discuss events and periods. • Sequence events and periods on a more complex timeline, using precise dates and times.
<p>Using & Interpreting Historical Sources</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose reliable and useful sources of evidence and justify choices. • Explain that it is important to know that some evidence from the past (and present) is propaganda, opinion or misinformation, and that this affects interpretations of history. • Adapt and refine a line of historical enquiry.

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Explaining Historical Reasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain how national and international events affected local lives in the past.• Explain how the same event could impact different groups in different ways.• Explain historical reasons and justify with evidence from a range of sources.
Comparing & Contrasting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compare different periods of history and identify changes and continuity.• Explain the reasons for changes and continuity using precise historical vocabulary.• Describe similarities and differences between social, cultural and ethnic diversity in Britain and the wider world.

Enquiry Questions:

- When and how did World War II break out?
- Who were the Allied and Axis powers?
- What happened during the Birmingham Blitz?
- How did World War II impact everyday life?
- How did the role of women change during World War II?
- Why was Winston Churchill significant?
- What is the legacy of World War II?

Key Vocabulary:

troops, declare, Allied Powers, Axis Powers, surrender, Neville Chamberlain, Adolf Hitler, Prime Minister, industrial, manufacturing, air raid, VE Day, blackout regulations, evacuation, rationing, coupons, farm hand, military service, remembrance

Cross-Curricular Writing Outcomes:

- ❖ *Writing to inform* – Non-chronological report about the role of women in WWII and the legacy of this
- ❖ *Writing to recount events: journalistic* – Journalistic recount about the Birmingham Blitz / bombs landing in Shirley

Oracy Outcome:

- ❖ Group presentation about rationing – what it was and its impact