**World Wars I and II – Summary**

**World War I**

* World War One took place between 1914 and 1918.
* The war was fought between the Central Powers (Germany, Turkey, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria) and the Allied Powers (Britain, France, Russia, Italy, USA, Japan, Belgium, Greece, Portugal and Montenegro).
* The war was fought from the trenches. Each side occupied a system of trenches dug in the ground. Conditions were disgusting and disease was common. When soldiers left the trench to fight, it was called going ‘over the top’.
* Many new weapons were used in World War One, including machine guns, poison gas, submarines, airplanes and tanks.
* The Allies won. Germany surrendered and World War One ended on November 11th 1918. In the UK, they now remember those that died during WW1 on November 11th every year, Remembrance Day.
* The Treaty of Versailles was decided after the war. It blamed Germany for WW1 and ordered that Germany had to reduce their army size and pay fines.

**World War II**

* World War 2 began in 1939 and ended in 1945. It was a war over land. It began when Adolf Hitler, the Nazi party leader in Germany, wanted Germany to become the most powerful country in the world. Hitler’s forces invaded Poland on September 1st 1939, and Britain declared war.
* The main leaders during WW2 were: Adolf Hitler (Germany), Neville Chamberlain and later Winston Churchill (Britain), Josef Stalin (Soviet Union), Benito Mussolini (Italy) and Franklin Roosevelt (USA).
* Germany bombed the cities of Britain during WW2. This was known as ‘The Blitz’. People fled to air raid shelters when they heard the loud sirens. Many children were evacuated from the cities to the countryside.
* USA joined the war after Japan bombed the navy base Pearl Harbour in the USA.
* In 1944, the Allies (Britain and others) landed on the beaches of Normandy in France and pushed the Germans back. This was known as D-Day.
* Hitler committed suicide in April 1945, because he knew that Germany had lost the war.
* May 7th 1945 was VE (Victory in Europe) Day, when Germany surrendered and the war in Europe was over.
* In August 1945, the USA dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. Japan then surrendered to the USA on VJ (Victory in Japan) Day, September 2nd 1945. WW2 was over.
* Hitler hated Jewish people. He made them wear the Star of David. Eventually, he forced them to go to concentration camps where 6 million Jews were killed.
* Rationing also took place during WW2. Food was scarce, so people were only allowed a small amount of sugar, tea, eggs etc. each week.
* Ireland was neutral (not supporting either side) during WW2 but we still felt the effect of the war. Food rationing took place, some men fought for Britain and Dublin was even bombed once.