**Below is a brief summary of some of the topics we have studied this year. You will be quizzed on the important points of the summary below.**

**This is a very fun challenge, it is a straight factual knowledge test (20 answers); how many names, dates and important things can you remember?**

Queen Victoria reigned over the British Empire from 1837 to 1901. She saw the British Empire increase its land and power throughout the world and is one of our most famous leaders. The Victorian Era was a ‘divided society’; this meant it was divided into 3 classes, the Working Class, the Middle Class and the Upper Class. Even the schools were divided. Most children were too poor to afford private schooling and so they had to go schools called ‘Ragged schools’. Here they were taught the 3 R’s (Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic) and those who could afford it paid a coin a week towards a deposit for the tools of their trade, which they would need when they left school.

Figure 1: I am competing in the brain Olympics

The alternative was not very nice. Victorian children as young as 5 were put to work in the towns and the countryside. In the Countryside they worked as Human Scarecrows, Stone collectors, Dibbers, Miners and Herring Callers. In the towns they worked as Chimney Sweeps, in textile mills and factories and also as Street Children, polishing shoes and selling trinkets.

Children worked very long hours in the factories and textile mills – between 12-16 hours a day. In the mills the children’s main jobs were to keep the machinery running and make repairs and clean up. It was pretty dangerous as they lost fingers or limbs due to the heavy, moving machinery. There were also no guards watching and some children were as young as 5! Another job they had to do were piece bits of wool back together when they split, these children were called ’piecers’. Their hands would go raw from rubbing. Some children were apprenticed and so they got paid over time and received an hours schooling including food and a place to live for their work. There were two government acts, however, that were passed to try and make work safer. These were the 1844 Factory Act which stopped children under 12 working more than 6 ½ hours a day and the 1878 Factory Act which meant children under the age of 10 couldn’t work in factories.

Chimney Sweeps were usually boys who were apprenticed to an older man. They could be as young as 5-6. Their job was to clean chimneys by climbing up them and brushing the soot out. However, they often got injured, grazing their knee’s or elbows, and in some cases they got stuck and dies. The soot was very bad for their lungs and most died young. In 1832 the government passed a law meaning young boys couldn’t be used for sweeping chimneys.



Figure 2Let’s see, what can I remember?