Tasks on the text **“COLOURS AND THEIR MEANINGS”**

1. ***Read the text and fill in the blanks with the appropriate words.***

The Ribbon of Saint George or Saint George's Ribbon is a widely recognized military symbol in Russia. The ribbon consists of a black and orange bicolour pattern, with two orange and three black stripes. It appears as a component of many high military decorations awarded by Imperial, Soviet, and the current Russian Federation, including the recently revived Order of Saint George and the Cross of Saint George medal, as well as the Soviet Order of Glory award.

The Georgian ribbon emerged as part of the Order of Saint George, established in 1769 by Catherine II as the highest military decoration of Imperial Russia.

The symbolism of the orange and black (or yellow and black) is thought to represent fire and gunpowder of war, or the death and resurrection of Saint George or the colours of the original Russian imperial coat of arms (black eagle on a golden background).

The Ribbon of Leningrad Victory was a campaign launched in Saint Petersburg on 18 January 2009, part of a citywide celebration of the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the city, then known as Leningrad, from the Nazi Army during World War II. The German siege of Leningrad began on September 8, 1941 and was lifted by the Russians on January 18, 1943. The design of the ribbon was inspired by the Defense of Leningrad medal awarded to members of the Soviet Armed Forces who participated in the city's defense.

The flag of the Russian Federation is a tricolor flag consisting of three equal horizontal fields; white on the top, blue in the middle and red on the bottom.

The first to use it was Peter the Great, who on January 20, 1705 ordered to hoist this flag as a trade one on all Russian ships on Moscow, Volga and Dvina rivers. In those times the lower red stripe symbolized the Earth, the blue stripe - the sky, and the upper white stripe meant the world of God. At the same time, according to the Russian tradition, white colour meant nobility, blue - honesty, red - courage and love.

The black, yellow and white Emperor's banner was approved as a national symbol by Emperor Alexander II in 1858 and remained as such till 1896. According to the official explanation the flag borrowed the colours from the imperial coat of arms – the Byzantium eagle was black, the Byzantium banner was gold, and the horse of St George, also pictured on the Moscow city emblem, was white.

1. ***Answer the question in 4-5 sentences:***

What does the date **the 9 of May 1945** mean for the Russian people?

The 9 of May 1945 day Germany’s final surrender to the Soviet Union. Ending one of the bloodiest wars in Russia’s history if not the whole world. The Russian people paid a high price for this Victory, and to this day they remember and honor the millions who died. The war was a tragedy, but it allowed to show the best of Russian people: perseverance and courage, unity and solidarity in the face of the enemy, diligence and dedication, talent of engineers and military leaders, military prowess and love for the Motherland.