

School visit 30th June 2017

Today a year group of 6 and 7 year-olds visited us at the Rural Life Centre. They came to learn more about the Victorians, the topic they have been studying at school recently. We are always eager for schools to visit to our Museum as it is a great opportunity for the children to see what they have been learning about. Our volunteers, dressed up as Victorian teachers and maids, among others, greeted them from the coach. They were then brought into the village hall or the Frensham Building where they were introduced to us and what they would be doing that day.

After being separated into groups, they participated in activities including Monday Washday (they used carbolic soap, dollies and mangles) and Traditional Farming (where they extracted the seeds from wheat and pretended to carry water using yokes and buckets). They also took part in a lesson in the Victorian Schoolroom, dressed up as Victorian children where they learned Victorian chants, wrote letters on slates and were read Victorian poems, which used to teach the children moral lessons including not eating poisonous berries.

They learned about how the Victorians coped without electricity, soap and modern technologies including both the farming machinery and at school, which the children are used to. Some were extremely surprised when told that clothing had to be washed by hand and children used to be caned when they were badly behaved. They flinched whenever the cane was whipped through the air!

Lunch outside in the sunshine was followed by playtime outside the schoolroom with period toys including metal hoola-hoops, skipping ropes, stilts and wooden horses. It was fantastic to see the children having fun with the toys that their great-grandparents and grandparents probably played with when they were their age.

When not partaking in activities, the children had the chance to look around the Museum buildings and exhibits in small groups. We are pleased to say that they were very interested by what they saw, as well as being eager to learn more. We are sure they thoroughly enjoyed their trip as it allowed them to experience the topic they have been studying first-hand, in a fun and interesting way.