

Live a Victorian Christmas at Gressenhall!

Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse is offering a unique opportunity to KS2 students to participate in a Victorian Christmas at the end of the Autumn term.

Students will be able to help Lady Hermione put on a Victorian Christmas celebration. Join costumed characters to make mincemeat and Christmas cards, perform in a Victorian melodrama and learn a traditional dance. To truly enter into the spirit of the Victorian world, we invite you to come in costume!

For admission rates and availability please contact Alison Tebbit as detailed below or by email at alison.tebbit@norfolk.gov.uk. Travel bursaries are also available to assist schools who may have difficulties in funding transport.

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Victorian Christmas Days at Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse

This is a living history event to enable children to learn about rural Norfolk and its past through empathy and hands-on activities. The day is multi-sensory and designed around the National Curriculum to promote active engagement with the Victorian period. Children will benefit most if the day is used to build on work at school.

The children will explore the Victorian workhouse at Christmas, see how both the rich and the poor celebrate the festivities and meet costumed historical characters. It will add to the effectiveness of the day if they and their adult helpers can come in costume.

- Sir George is the main Guardian of the Workhouse and is very rich. He has travelled a good deal and is very musical.
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- Lady Hermione is his aunt and only relative whom he looks after. She is also a Workhouse Guardian.
- Miss Skinner is the school teacher at the Workhouse
- Jacob Scraggs is Sir George's assistant and deals with all his money and business matters
- The Cooks have come from Sir George and Lady Hermione's house to help out at Christmas in the Workhouse

At the start of the day the children will assemble in the chapel where they can leave their lunches and meet the characters. They will return to the chapel to have their lunches. After lunch they will remain in the chapel for the afternoon entertainment.

But is all well with Sir George and his family? The characters are hoping that the children will listen hard, ask questions and try to find out what is going on in the Workhouse this Christmas.

Victorian Christmas at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse 2007

Time	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
10.00 – 10.25	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly
10.25 – 10.55	Christmas Cards	Traditional song and dance	Party Pieces	Mincemeat making
10.55 – 11.25	Traditional song and dance	Party Pieces	Mincemeat making	Christmas Cards
11.25 – 11.55	Party Pieces	Mincemeat making	Christmas Cards	Traditional song and dance
11.55 – 12.25	Mincemeat making	Christmas Cards	Traditional song and dance	Party Pieces
12.30 – 1.15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1.15 – 2.00	FINALE	FINALE	FINALE	FINALE

A Victorian Christmas involves 70-100 students. There is often more than one school participating in each individual day. The total number of students is divided into four groups. You will be notified before your visit as to how many groups you should divide your students into. Please contact Learning & Access on 01362 869256 if you have a query about this.

Before the Day:

- Please note the café and shop will not be open during your visit
- Please advise your coach company that the café will be closed, and that their driver will need to make alternative arrangements
- The children will be invited to taste Victorian Plum Pudding (Christmas pudding)- please be aware of this if you have anybody that may have food allergies or intolerances

Please note there will be a Christian prayer said during the day

Locations and Activities:

- Assembly - Chapel
- Christmas cards - Education Room
- Traditional song and dance - Chapel
- Party pieces - School room
- Making mincemeat - Learning Centre
- Finale - Chapel
- Toilets - It is best to allow children to go to the toilet "as and when" throughout the day to avoid queues.

Thank you for visiting Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse – we hope you enjoy your visit. Kindly complete the evaluation form to allow us to judge the success of your day.

Victorian Costume

Some ideas for a Victorian look



Suggestions to help you transform your packed lunch into a Victorian Snap



*"... there were no school dinners.
I took bread and cheese and
a bottle of cold tea..."*

What You Might Bring

Thick sliced cheese sandwich

Bread and jam

Pickle

Cooked ham

Boiled egg

Fruit

Gingerbread biscuits

'Traditional' lemonade

Ginger beer



Packed lunches offer an opportunity to increase the Victorian experience.

In keeping with the period, a time before supermarkets and fast food, there should be no crisps or sticky sweets. The food should be brought wrapped in either a cloth, for example a tea towel, or either greaseproof or brown paper, but not in plastic sandwich boxes. There should be no cans or tin foil and drinks should be in bottles with screw tops.