

Topic fact sheet- Life in the past

What was it like being a child in the Victorian times/

Life wasn't the same for all children during the Victorian times. The kind of life a child had depended on their family.



What jobs did children have?

If you were a child from a poor family, you worked and worked to earn money for your family. Children would work as chimney sweeps, work in factories, sell things on the street and work down in the coal mines. The jobs were very dangerous at times and they would work very long hours.



What were Victorian schools like?

- There could be up to 80 children in a class and the teachers were very strict.
- Children sat on hard wooden benches and were mostly taught by reading and copying things down and chanting. Classrooms looked very different to how they look now.

Key Vocabulary

- Chimney sweep- children were often better at this job because they were smaller. They would be sent up chimneys to brush soot away.
- Victorian time- this is the time when Queen Victoria ruled Britain.
- Working class- people who worked in dangerous conditions and weren't paid very much.



Chawson 1st School

Spring topic letter

Year One

ENGLISH

What?

We are learning a new story called Old Bear.
We are remembering how to use capital letters and full stops. We will also be learning to write using question marks and exclamation marks.

Why? We will be writing a letter.

Help at home by:

Reading lots of books and looking for sentences that include a question mark and exclamation marks. Think carefully about how we might read sentences using this punctuation.

MATHS

What? We will be finding and representing addition and subtraction number facts of numbers 11-16.

Why? We will use our knowledge of addition and subtraction for numbers 11-16 to help us solve number problems.

WOW! We will be able to use all of this information to work out equations faster and help us with future maths.

Help at home by: Keep practicing your Big Maths Learn-its to help with rapid recall. Practice addition and subtraction number facts of 11-16.

Our next topic this half term is:

Life in the past



Cross Curricular Links

What? We will learn about life in the Victorian schools; the rules, the punishment, the lessons and more and also learn about the jobs that the children had to do.

Why? To be able to understand how things have changed from the Victorian times to the present day.

Wow! We will have a Victorian Day at school and get to dress up in Victorian costumes.

PE Information:

Please come into school on PE days in black jogging bottoms or leggings, a white polo t shirt and black trainers.

1H- Wednesday and Thursday

1B- Wednesday and Friday

Reading books;

Reading books will now only be changed on a Friday. The children will choose a reading for pleasure book each week to bring home for the week too. These will be changed on a Friday too.

Important dates

Trip to the Black Country Museum- Friday 13th March (see parent pay for more information)

Victorian school day- We will be spending the day dressed as Victorian children (costumes will be provided by the school) and learning about school life in the Victorian times. Dates TBC.

World Book Day- Thursday 5th March 2026

Year Group Timetable

8:40 Handwriting
9:00 Phonics
9:30 Writing
10:00 Play time
10:15 Snack and story
10:30 Reading practice
10:45 Maths
11:45 Lunch
1:00 Topic lesson
2:00 Play time
2:15 Dictation Sentence
2:40 Assembly
3:00 Story
3:10 Home time