

Fox Class Victorian Day Year 3 & 4 – 21st May 2025

Fox Class (Years 3 and 4) thoroughly stepped back in time on Wednesday 21st May 2025 for their immersive Victorian Day, which became a true highlight of the week. The day brought history vividly to life and allowed pupils to experience first-hand what schooling and everyday life may have been like for Victorian children.

Bringing History to Life

In their History lesson, the children were thrilled to explore the Victorian history box supplied by Oxfordshire County Council, kindly funded by our PTA. Having access to authentic artefacts enabled pupils to deepen their understanding beyond books and images, sparking curiosity, discussion and awe.

Children had the opportunity to see and handle real relics, including:

- Slate boards and slate pencils
- Copy books featuring beautiful copperplate handwriting
- Inkwells and dip pens
- Sewing items such as thread, needles, lace, buttons and thimbles
- Peg dolls and small traditional toys
- Household artefacts used in everyday Victorian life

A particular highlight was the children's fascination with the sewing and handicrafts produced by girls in the Victorian era, as well as the precision and elegance of the handwriting in original copy books.

Child voice:

*"I can't believe how neat their handwriting was — it must have taken so much practice."
"They made all of this by hand!"*

A Fully Immersive Day

Our Victorian Day was brought to life further thanks to the fantastic costumes provided by families, helping children feel truly transported to the past. Thank you to parents and carers for your time and creativity - it made a huge difference to the authenticity of the experience.

Throughout the day, pupils embraced Victorian school routines, including:

- Learning how Victorian children were expected to **behave and show good deportment**
- Taking part in drill exercises
- Chanting times tables by rote
- Practising careful handwriting in a Victorian style

The children then made peg dolls, which they proudly played with at breaktime — just as Victorian children might have done.

Afternoon Victorian Learning

In the afternoon, pupils explored further aspects of Victorian life and learning:

- Nature study using watercolours, focusing on careful observation and detail
- Thaumatrope making by the boys, learning about early Victorian optical toys
- Sewing bookmarks by the girls, developing concentration, patience and fine motor skills

These activities prompted thoughtful discussion about gender roles in Victorian society and how education and opportunities have changed over time.

Behaviour, Attitudes and Engagement

The children's behaviour throughout the entire day was exemplary. Pupils showed:

- Excellent listening and focus
- Respect for artefacts and one another
- Pride in their work
- Enthusiasm and curiosity

Their mature attitudes allowed learning to flourish and reflected how engaged and motivated they were by the experience.

A Memorable Learning Experience

Victorian Day offered Fox Class a meaningful opportunity to experience history, not just learn about it. Through hands-on artefacts, practical activities and immersive routines, pupils developed a deeper understanding of the past that will support and enrich their future learning.

We hope the class left feeling they had enjoyed a genuine Victorian school experience - and judging by their smiles, questions and reflections, it was a day they will remember for a long time!

