

Outcomes:

History

**I can explain what life was like in Victorian times.**

**I can explain what a Victorian workhouse school was like.**

**I can explain the conditions in a Victorian workhouse.**

**I can explain what rural life was like in Victorian times.**



### Gressenhall Work House – Victorian Experience Day.

For our trip we visited Gressenhall Museum, an original 18<sup>th</sup> century building that was used for a workhouse for much of the Victorian period. The children all dressed up in Victorian garb, and there were various characters around the whole site. The children learnt all about life on the farm during the Victorian period, and they did various jobs to help the farm workers: including stone-picking (hard, laborious manual work) and washing clothes (hard, laborious work). They also helped the farmer's wife to make some drop scones, with real Victorian eggs! They were very tasty!

They also got a taste of what a Victorian school was like – quite different from the 21<sup>st</sup> century! They learnt how children who fidgeted were dealt with, some nasty wooden instruments to keep their fingers and arms in place. They were also shown how Victorian children were taught by rote, and what happened when they did not keep up – the dunce! Luckily they realised that the cane was not just for punishment but an old fashioned pointing device for the teacher. Finally, they learnt a little about life in the workhouse itself – we all agreed that we were glad we were not around in those days.

The children were impeccably behaved and we all had a great time – we would certainly visit again!

Quotes:

Oh this is hard work,  
I couldn't do this for  
ten hours.

They used the cane  
to hit you!

"What is this thing for?"

"It's a mangle – it dries  
your clothes"

