



Governor Visit Report

Governor Name: Miss Jane Hodges

Date of Visit: 14 December 2011

Subject: School Trip to Folk Museum

Subject Leader: Miss Claire Jarvis/
Miss Clare Bush

Focus of Visit

The curriculum topic for autumn 2011 was Entertainment and the children have been looking at the similarities and differences between toys today and toys in the past. This has introduced children to the concepts of 'old' and 'new', in the way things are made and the materials used, as well as how things have changed socially for children and their families. To conclude this topic the Year 1, 2 and 3 children visited the Folk Museum in Cambridge to experience a Victorian Toy Christmas.

Summary of Visit

The children were split into three mixed-age groups and each group participated in three activities:

1. In the attic of the Folk Museum the children looked at and play with historical toys. Miss Bush discussed the toys with the children and she encouraged the group to answer questions about how we identify whether the toys are old or new. The children played with dolls houses, wooden toys and plastic toys. There was also a colouring activity. At the end of the session the children visited the kitchen and snug where they viewed other historical artefacts.
2. In the Educational Room the curator spoke with the children about the origins of some of our Christmas traditions. In particular, she talked about how Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert wanted to introduce the German tradition of bringing a tree indoors at Christmas time. She also talked about the origins of decorations and showed the children a Victorian decoration of Santa Claus wearing a green coat rather than red! The pupils then made their own Santa decorations using wooden clothes pegs.
3. The dining room of the museum had been dressed as a Victorian family dining room at Christmas time with a decorated fireplace, Christmas tree and Victorian treats were on display. The children were then read an abridged version of Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

At the end of the visit the children were allowed to visit the museum shop and purchase a souvenir.

Other Comments

This school trip was a well-timed event during a busy period at school, which I think the children appreciated and enjoyed. The activities gave pupils an opportunity to use their listening and speaking skills away from their normal school environment, and the topical element of Christmas will no doubt reinforce their learning experience.

I'd like to thank Miss Bush for inviting me along as a Parent Helper, and allowing me to make observations as a Parent Governor.



Children participate in a colouring and Christmas card-making activity.



Playing with toys in the attic of the museum.



Playing with the doll's house

Some of the boys enjoy playing Shove Ha'penny



The curator shows the children Victorian Christmas decorations in the Educational Room of the museum.

The curator reads the children A Christmas Carol in the Victorian Dining Room.