



## Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Godbold

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Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are excited to be able to take Kestrels class to visit **Gressenhall on Monday 2nd June 2025** as part of our local history learning, for a Victorian activity day! The day is designed to broaden our children's knowledge and understanding of what life was like in Victorian England.

### What will we be doing?

The Victorian activity day is all about learning with a 'hands on' approach. Children will experience the sights, smells and sounds of a Victorian farm, kitchen and workhouse as they get stuck into life in the past. As this is an immersive experience the children are encouraged to dress in Victorian Costume (we have given some suggestions in this letter) for the day as they will be enrolled as children coming to the work house. We are aware that some of our children do not like dressing up, please note that it isn't essential for them to do so, it just adds to the experience of the day.

During the day the children will carousel around four sessions with their costumed characters across the 50-acre site:

- Mr Bradfield, the stern Workhouse Master, will task the children in a Victorian school lesson in our 1860's school room.
- Jack Plowright or Martha Middleton, a dismal workhouse inmate, will take the children on a tour of the workhouse and explore the conditions of the Victorian poor in rural Norfolk.
- The children will meet the head horseman, and get involved with farm work, 1860's style.
- Mrs Clackett, the frazzled owner of the farm, will cook with the children in the farmhouse whilst Alice, the insolent washer woman, teaches them how to wash with tubs and dollies the old-fashioned way.

The children will interact with costumed characters to discover more about the lives and jobs of people 160 years ago. Alongside the immersive sessions, a story of the chapel theft adds tension to the visit. Our children will be encouraged to ask questions that will help explore Victorian life as well as unpick the mystery of the missing candlesticks. Their observations in the sessions might just find a vital clue!

The concluding drama encourages our children to reflect upon what they have seen, heard, and thought during the day. Our story line interlinks with learning about the past as the

students explore roles and hierarchy in Victorian society and argue who they feel was responsible for the theft  
It is set to be an exciting day!

### Costs & Payments.

To cover the cost of the entry fee and partial coach payment, the trip will cost **£10.20 per child**. The Friends of Gooderstone are kindly subsidising part of the cost of the coach, thank you Friends!

Please pay for this trip through Arbor (trips section). If your child receives Pupil Premium funding the school will cover the cost of this trip. If you would like your child to attend the trip we will require the balance of **£10.20** to be paid by **Friday 16th May 2023**.

### Practicalities of the day.

- As some of the sessions take place outdoors, the children will need sensible footwear and appropriate clothes for the weather- for example, wet weather clothing/ sun protection.
- We have an assigned lunch space to leave belongings (bags, lunchboxes, coats etc.) during the day- we hope to eat our packed lunches outside in their lovely grounds if the weather is nice.
- There is an onsite shop that the children can visit. The children will be responsible for looking after their money on the day but to help them, please ensure they bring any money in a named wallet or purse.
- They will need a water bottle and a packed lunch (no glass bottles, fizzy drinks, chocolate bars or products containing nuts please).

### Ideas for Victorian Costumes.

#### Victorian Boy

- A shirt with a collar
- A tie
- A knitted tank top, cardigan or jumper in a traditional colour, or a plain coat
- A pair of school style shorts (not football shorts!)
- School socks
- School shoes
- A flat cap



The Victorian age lasted over 60 years, and fashions changed a lot in that time. There was a big difference between rich and poor people's clothes. The clothes here would have been for ordinary people like school children, shop boys and scullery maids.



#### Victorian Girl

- A knee length or full length dress or top and skirt in a plain or traditional print like a tartan or plaid.
- A long petticoat or short sleeved plain (ideally white) dress to wear over the top School socks in a plain colour
- School shoes
- A white cap or straw boater.

If you would like any further information in regards to the trip or activities on then please email: [kestrels@gooderstone.dneat.org](mailto:kestrels@gooderstone.dneat.org) . Parent volunteers are always welcome for our trips, if you would like to volunteer for the day please speak with the office as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Dunkley & Miss Rodda