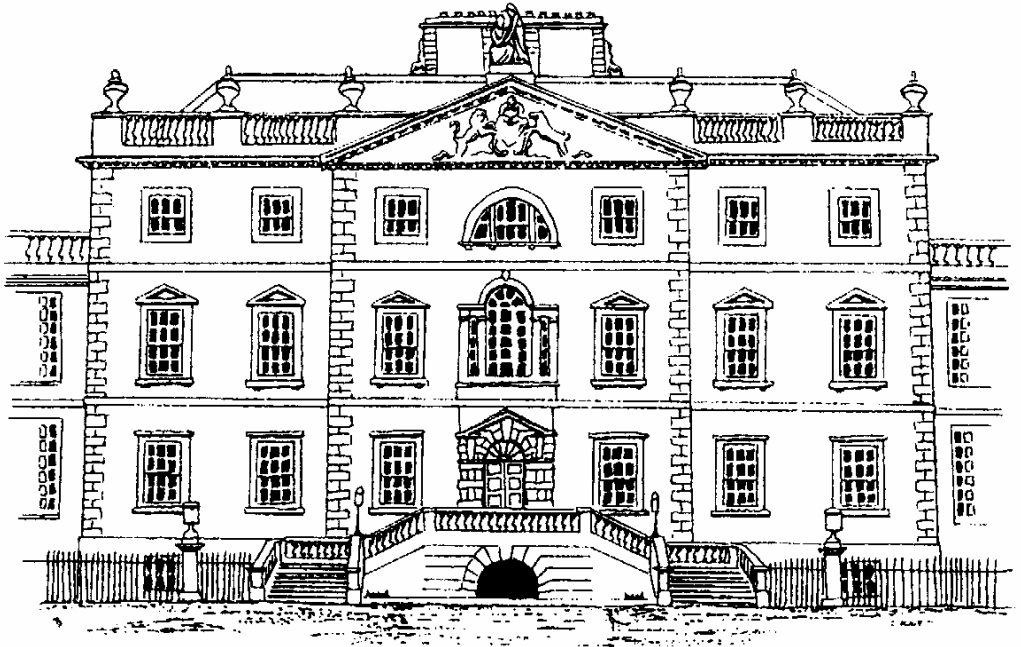


National
Trust

Wimpole Hall



Directed Activities for school groups

Choose from...

- Victorian Living History

Children are in costume and take on the roles of local villagers looking for work. Activities are based on typical Victorian servants' duties in a large country house such as Wimpole. Groups spend the morning in the basements of the Hall working through various Victorian servants' duties and then have the option of a self-directed or guided tour of the upper floors of the Hall for the afternoon.

- Morning Living History

- Spend a morning in the basement rooms of Wimpole Hall learning about life as a Victorian servant and help prepare the house for a Royal visit.

- Full Day Living History

- Spend a morning in the basement rooms of Wimpole Hall learning about life as a Victorian servant and help prepare the house for a Royal visit. In the afternoon take a guided tour 'above stairs'. You may meet the Lady of the house, don't forget your manners!

- Victorian Pick and Mix Session

A choice of sessions designed to help children understand the life of servants at Wimpole in the 1840's. Choose from:

- Handling domestic artefacts
- Open a Victorian toy box
- The Laundry maids day
- Writing with dip pens

To help you plan your visit

- All Education visits, directed or self directed **must be booked in advance**, please contact the Education Office on **01223 206004**
- If you wish to visit the Hall or Home Farm in the afternoon, please book this in advance with the Education Officer. Please note that separate admission charges apply. This visit will be self-directed.
- No charge for adults accompanying children for directed activities.
- Property admission – 1 adult admitted free with every 5 pupils
- Free teacher preliminary visits welcomed – ask for details.
- Family trails for the Hall, Home Farm and Gardens are available. These are suitable for use by a group of children working with an accompanying adult.
- A loan basket of replica Victorian toys is available for schools who have undertaken directed activities to borrow; there is no charge. Contact the Education Office for details.
- **NEW** - please be aware that from 2010 Wimpole Hall will open to the public from 11:00 a.m. Directed activities have been modified to maintain the quality of education visits and to minimise disruption to visiting groups.

For further information please contact the Education Office:

Tel: 01223 206004 **Fax:** 01223 207838

Email: education.wimpole@nationaltrust.org.uk

Victorian Living History

Curriculum Links -

- **History:**
 - The Victorians
 - Life in a country house
 - Social History

Practical details –

- Suitable for **KS2**
- Group size – 1 class with accompanying adults (minimum 25 children, maximum 35 children). The rooms used for the sessions are in the basement corridor and are fairly small so there is a limit on the number of children we can accommodate. Please contact us if you have any queries about the size of the group you wish to bring.
- Living History sessions run on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during mid April and from June until the end of October.
- The morning session starts at 10:00am and finishes at 12:10pm
- The full day session starts at 10:00am and finishes at 1:45pm
- The session will take place both on and off the visitor route.
- The sessions are led by members of the Wimpole Education team, in costume, who take on the roles of senior members of the household staff.
- A full teacher's pack is available from our website www.wimpole.org
- A preliminary visit is recommended, this can be self-directed or you can arrange to meet the Education officer to discuss your visit. .

How the session runs –

- In 1843 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited Wimpole as guests of Lord and Lady Hardwicke. The preparations for this visit meant that extra servants were needed.
- Your class (pupils and accompanying adults) will come in costume and in role as local villagers who have heard that more staff are needed at Wimpole to prepare for the visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. You will be met at the Stable Block by 'Victorian servants' who will bring you to the Hall.
- After being welcomed in the Chapel by the Butler and Housekeeper you will spend the morning being taught your duties as Victorian servants in the basement rooms of the Hall.
- Activities will include typical Victorian servants' tasks such as writing with dip pens, napkin folding and table laying.
- **Morning only** sessions end with 'senior servant's handing out certificates to everyone. Many schools make an afternoon booking to visit the Hall. Although this is self directed we can provide worksheets for you to photocopy prior to your visit.
- **Full day** sessions continue with lunch in the Servants' hall - we encourage schools to bring a Victorian packed lunch. During the afternoon the children are taken on tours of the Hall by the 'senior servants'.

Charge:

Morning Living History – EGM £4.00 / child NEGM £5.00 / child
Full Day Living History - EGM £7.00 / child NEGM £8.00 / child

EGM = Education Group Membership of National Trust please ask for details.

Victorian Activities – Pick and Mix

Curriculum Links -

- **History:**
 - The Victorians
 - Social History
 - Life in a Country House
 - Toys of the past

Practical details -

- Suitable for **KS 1 & 2**
- The minimum size for a group is 15 and the maximum is 50. The rooms used for the sessions are in the basement corridor and are fairly small so there is a limit on the number of children we can accommodate. Please contact us if you have queries about the size of group you wish to bring.
- Pick and Mix sessions run on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays during mid April and from June until the end of October.
- The following activities take place in the basement rooms of the Hall during the morning in dedicated rooms off of the normal visitor route, parts of the visitor route will also be used during the morning.
- Sessions can be tailored to suit your needs, just choose your activities from the following 4 activities - Unpack Victorian artefacts, Discover a Victorian toy box, The Laundry maid's day, Writing with dip and quill pens. Further details are given below for each of these activities.
- The activities are charged / ½ hour / child.
- Group sizes for each activity are approximately 15 children plus accompanying adults. A maximum of 3 activities may be chosen dependent on the number in your party.
- Education staff will meet you in the Stable Block and walk you up to the Hall for the start of your session.

1. Unpack our basket of Victorian artefacts.

- The children are told that they are going to find out about life in a house such as Wimpole by looking at some of the things that would have been used by the people who lived and worked here.
- The artefacts are wrapped in calico bags and the children work in pairs to unwrap the artefacts. As each one is unwrapped it is discussed – materials it is made from, function etc. It quickly becomes apparent to the children that running a large house required a lot of hard physical labour before the invention of electricity!
- The materials are commented on particularly the absence of plastic and the use of ivory.

2. The Laundry maid's day

- The children find out about the process of washing clothes before the introduction of electricity and the invention of washing machines using our laundry artefacts.

- The children are asked how clothes are washed now – hot water from the tap, washing powders, washing machines and easy care fabrics are all mentioned.
- The children are then shown a wash tub and wooden washboard. These are demonstrated using a bar of carbollic soap! The children are then all able to have a go.
- The dolly tub has water in it and the children can put the washing into it and then have a go with the dolly. They enjoy these activities but do begin to realise that doing all the washing this way would have been very hard work and time consuming.
- The use of washing tongs, dolly pegs, and irons is discussed and the children may handle these. The mangle is shown and may be demonstrated – the children are told that one model was sold under the trade name 'little nipper'!

3. Writing with dip pens

- The importance of being able to sign your name when you came to work as a servant at Wimpole is explained – you were expected to sign your name in the wages book. The Butler would have handed out wages at the end of the week. His other duties are also described briefly.
- Blotting paper, pen wipers, alphabet sheets, menu sheets, dip pens and ink are shown. (The ink that we use is washable blue to avoid the risk of permanent stains).
- The children write their names using dip pens.
- When they are satisfied with their efforts they then sign a certificate – 'a replica reference sheet'. This is taken back to school with them.
- They are shown a menu for a dinner and told that these also would have been written by hand (no photocopies!). Some may wish to try their hand at these as well. We also have quill pens and the children may try these for comparison.

4. Victorian Toy box

- The session starts with a comparison of the life of an ordinary Victorian child with children today. This includes a discussion of whether they would have had many toys and what else they might have been doing.
- A pedlar's basket full of Victorian toys is unpacked and the toys handed out in bags to each pair of children. In turn each pair unwrap their toy and it is discussed in relation to what it is and what it is made from.
- It soon becomes apparent that the toys are made of natural materials with no plastic or electrical components.
- With older groups of children the health and safety aspects of some of the antique toys can also be discussed.
- After the antique toys have been examined and discussed, a basket of replica Victorian toys is handed out and everybody has a chance to examine and play with the toys.

Charge:

EGM £1.25 / child / ½ hour session

NEGM £1.50 / child / ½ hour session

EGM = Education Group Membership of National Trust please ask for details.