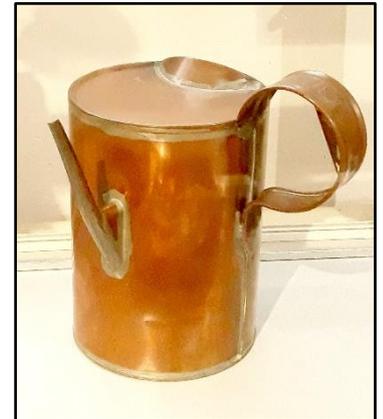


Victorian School Day Timetable

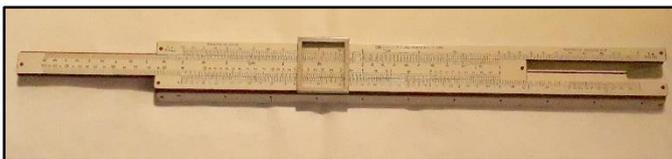
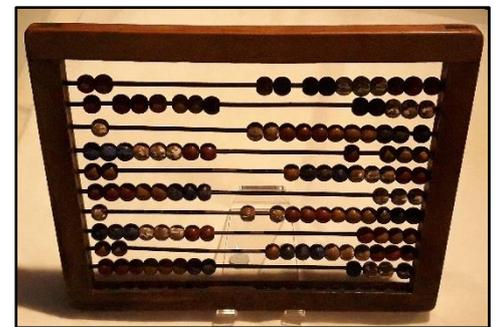
Start of the Day, 08:55 – 09:00

Before school starts, one child would be chosen to fill up the ink wells with ink from an ink jug and help teacher to prepare the classroom. For the younger children, the slates and chalks would be placed on everyone's desk. At 9am the bell would be rung (by a teacher or the Headteacher with a hand held bell), and the children would file into school in silence – the boys would go in through one door and the girls through another as they were taught in different classrooms.



Morning Lessons, 09:00 – 12:00

Children would sit in the classroom in silence and listen to the teacher. Often children learnt by rote, which means repeating sums or sentences over and over again. The teacher would teach reading, writing and arithmetic (maths), so children would have to know spellings of words and times tables off by heart. Children might use a slide rule (an old-fashioned version of a calculator) or an abacus to help them with sums and would write on slate when they were young as paper and ink was expensive. Teachers would hit children with a cane, or make them sit in the corner with a Dunce's hat (cone hat with a D on it) if they were naughty – such as talking in class, not paying attention, or getting things wrong repeatedly. This should not happen in the present day, but if you are worried about this, talk to an adult at school as they will be able to help you.



Lunchtime, 12:00 – 14:00

Children would often go home for lunch and families would have their cooked meal at lunchtime. Children would also have duties and chores to do at this time as well, such as taking lunch to their father who might be working in a factory or scaring birds in the fields, so the birds didn't eat the crops. Girls would usually also help their mother around the house such as with cooking, cleaning and washing tasks.



Afternoon Lessons, 14:00 – 17:00

Children would sit in the classroom in silence and listen to the teacher. Often children learnt by rote, which means repeating facts over and over again. Some schools would teach subjects like religion, history or geography during this time and teachers would have samples of materials (such as rocks and minerals) to show the children as there was no internet! Children were also taught in large classes, unless the school was in a village, sometimes there were up to 100 children in each classroom!

Home time, 17:00

Children in this period would often walk home themselves from school, especially in working-class areas such as Norfolk Street as their parents would be busy working. Children were expected to help around the house, as at this time, working-class families didn't have much money so children had to contribute to the household. Girls would cook, clean and wash clothes with their mother, or become servants or cleaners for wealthy families to earn extra money for the family, and boys might be asked to fetch water from a communal tap, collect firewood, or run errands to earn extra money.

