



Balsall Heath  
Local History Society

# The Schoolroom

at

**The Northfield Hub, Price's Square.  
B31 2NG**

**This exciting educational resource has moved to  
Northfield and is now available for bookings.**

Visiting groups can choose between a Victorian, First World War or Second World War experience, with an accompanying session including artefacts.

All activities are adapted to the age of the class. It is suitable for children in Key Stage 1 and 2.

Email: [bron.salway@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bron.salway@blueyonder.co.uk)

## The Victorian Schoolroom.



### In the Schoolroom:

The children are dressed in - pinafores for the girls and waistcoats and caps for the boys. They are given a 'new' Victorian sounding name and then answer the register to their new names. The session includes learning facts by rote in an Object/Nature lesson and handwriting practice followed by writing with dipped pens - a very popular part of the experience. Year 1 children write in pencil. We also chant tables and demonstrate the difference between the day at school that the children are familiar with and the more formal, regimented way of teaching in the Victorian era.

### In the Artefacts Session:

The children are encouraged to think about what it was like to live in a Victorian working class home, with particular reference to electricity, water and cleaning. They are invited to make a comparison with their own homes today.

Then the children split into two groups to look at :\_

a) Victorian washing artefacts. Now they get a chance to try a dolly maid, grate some soap, scrub collars on a washboard and peg washing on a line.

b) Victorian home artefacts. The children have a quiz to guess what the items were used for. Comparisons with items used today are discussed.

## The Second World War Schoolroom



### In the Schoolroom

By 1939 some aspects of school had changed. Now the children are dressed differently -the girls in gingham dresses, the boys in grey pullovers, blazers or shirt and tie - these can all be worn over their own clothing. Again, the children are given new names this time more appropriate to the '40s.

The lesson is taking place on the last day at school for the children before their evacuation to a place of safety the following day. The children leave with the label for the next day and a postcard they have written to send home to parents, as well as a list of clothing to take with them and their Identity Card.

### In the Artefacts session.

Children are introduced to life at home at this period with an opportunity to compare their lives now with the past. Food rationing is explained and they are invited to consider how they would have felt as they compare their own weekly food with the amount available then. The topic of air raids is explored and following on from that the children take part in a role play about evacuation.

## The First World War Schoolroom

Children are dressed as for the Victorian schoolroom, in pinafores and waistcoats/caps, but the names are now more appropriate to 1914. The activities are similar as schooling had not changed much since the Victorian era. So the class includes learning by rote, handwriting practice with dip pen and ink, as well as tables practice. However, the class also contains reference to WW1 related topics and a warning about Zeppelin air raids.

-----  
---

### BOOKING

Sessions in the Schoolroom are just £3.00 per child for a one hour session

A **double session** experience for the Schoolroom is £6.00 per child, to include - classroom and artefacts session.

#### HOW TO BOOK:

Phone: Val Hart- 0121 689 2584

E mail: [bron.salway@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bron.salway@blueyonder.co.uk)

#### Reviews.

We have been running the schoolroom in Balsall Heath for about ten years and have had a lot of positive feedback.

Some of the recent comments received:

- *Children were engaged all the time*
- *The children had hands-on experience with artefacts.*
- *They were able to experience a Victorian classroom. It gave them a good insight.*
- *There was learning happening throughout the sessions.*
- *An amazing experience, the children thoroughly enjoyed their time*

Preparatory visits by staff are welcome, by appointment.  
See also our website: [www.balsallheathhistory.co.uk](http://www.balsallheathhistory.co.uk)