

# Leeds Castle's A Victorian Christmas

## Workshop Programme

This workshop is designed to cover a selection of requirements for History, Drama, English and Literacy at Key Stage 2.

## Learning Objectives

The workshop is led by Leeds Castle Education Staff who will engage the children in thinking about lives of a bygone age that were so very different from their own. They will learn however that despite the differences, the traditions remain the same.

## Workshop Session

The children and teachers are encouraged to come in costume, but we have enough pinafores and waistcoats for those children not able to do so.

The workshop starts with two Victorian school teachers instructing the children how to become children from the year 1875. They will learn what a Victorian school room was like and how to address their elders and the Lord and Lady of the Castle. They will look at some of the toys they may have played with, and even see a cane in action! They will learn about what awaits them and what work they may do when they finish school.

Following the session the children will visit the Castle, where they will meet a member of the household or possibly Lord Phillip or Lady Elizabeth. They will be introduced to them formally, before having a guided tour of the Castle which has been traditionally decorated for Christmas.

The children will then eat their lunch in Victorian style in the Education Centre. After lunch, the children will hear some Christmas stories, narrated by Lady Elizabeth, and the teachers. The session is rounded off with the class singing The 12 days of Christmas. You may wish to practise this beforehand.

This workshop is an all day workshop written for a maximum of 40 children. The children will get the most from their day if it is only one group. We recognise however that this is not always possible and we can accommodate up to 70, although it may not always be possible to eat in the Education Centre.



# Timetable of the Day

The timings below in both timetables, are approximate and can vary depending on how the workshop and tours progress.

## Timetable 1 - For group size 40 and below

<b>WHOLE GROUP</b>	
<b>10.00 am</b>	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where you will be met by your Education Leader.
<b>10.15 am</b>	Directed to the Education Centre by staff
<b>10.30 am</b>	Workshop session
<b>11.30 am</b>	Castle Tour with Lady Elizabeth
<b>12.30 pm</b>	Lunch
<b>1pm</b>	Storytelling
<b>1.30pm</b>	Free Time
<b>2pm</b>	Depart

## Timetable 2 - For group size 41 - 70

<b>GROUP A</b>		<b>GROUP B</b>	
<b>10.00 am</b>	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where you will be met by your Education Leader.		
<b>10.15 am</b>	Directed to the Education Centre by staff		
<b>10.30 am</b>	Workshop session	<b>10.30 am</b>	Castle Tour with Lady Elizabeth
<b>11.30 am</b>	Castle Tour with Lady Elizabeth	<b>11.30 am</b>	Workshop session
<b>12.30 pm</b>	Lunch & free time		
<b>1.30pm</b>	Storytelling		
<b>2pm</b>	Depart		



# Background Information

In 1870 it became compulsory for all children to attend school between the ages of 5 – 10.

Between the years 1860 – 1874, new inventions included the light bulb, linoleum, repeating rifle, revolving machine gun, mechanical submarine, pasteurisation, the roller coaster, barbed wire, dynamite, vacuum cleaner, cable car, denim and in June of 1875 the telephone.

Although the people at the time may not have realised it, it was an innovative and inventive time to live in!

It was a time when ‘children were seen and not heard’ and being a child in Victorian times meant following the rules!

In 1875 Queen Victoria had been on the throne for 38 years and a widow for 14 years. The Prime Minister at the time was Benjamin Disraeli.

The owner of Leeds Castle at this time was Philip Wykeham Martin, son of Charles Wykeham Martin who was responsible writing a ‘History of Leeds Castle’ book, which we still use today for reference. Philip Wykeham Martin was a Member of Parliament for Rochester, and lived at Leeds Castle with his wife Elizabeth.

The *Victorian Christmas* will incorporate sessions that will encourage the children to think what life might have been like without the communication systems and technology of today.

The tour of the castle, decorated for Christmas, coupled with the telling of traditional stories will combine what may appear to them to be austere times with the happiness and joy of Christmas, and how some traditions stay the same even though lives change with the progress of time.

# Timeline

- 1837** Queen Victoria inherits the throne aged 18
- 1838** Oliver Twist, by Charles Dickens, is published  
First photograph taken by inventor Louis Daguerre  
Slavery in England is abolished
- 1840** Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha
- 1841** Great Western Railway between London and Bristol opened
- 1842** Factory Act forbids the employment of children in coalmines
- 1845** Potato famine in Ireland
- 1847** Factory Act limits children's working hours to 10 per day
- 1850s** Crinoline is fashionable for women and girls
- 1851** The Great Exhibition opens in Hyde Park  
Ice Cream invented in USA
- 1852** First public flushing toilet in London
- 1854 – 1856** Crimean War – Florence Nightingale sent to Scutari to tend injured soldiers
- 1861** Prince Albert dies of typhoid
- 1863** First underground railway built in London
- 1868** Last public hanging
- 1869** First Sainsbury's store opened
- 1870** Education Act makes school compulsory for children aged 5-10 years  
Dr. Barnado opens first home for poor boys in East End
- 1875** Telephone invented by Alexander Graham Bell
- 1879** Thomas Edison invents the electric light
- 1891** Schooling is made free for all
- 1894** First motor car is brought to Britain from Germany
- 1899** Boer War begins (ends 1902)

