

Knowledge Organiser

Year Group	Subject	Topic
3	History	School then and now

The Big Picture

This topic helps us understand how school life has changed over time and why modern schools are different from schools in the past. This is the third unit of the Victorian era that children will cover. Children have already learnt about Victorian holidays in Year 1 and Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole in Year 2. This unit focuses on schools and how they have changed into what the children know today. They will learn about who went to different schools, the equipment available and how children were punished, whilst comparing their knowledge to modern schools.

Enquiry Questions

- **Who went to school in Victorian times?**
- **What were teachers like in Victorian schools?**
- **What were classrooms like in Victorian schools?**
- **How were children punished in the Victorian era?**
- **How have schools changed?**

Key Vocabulary

Victorian	A time in history when Queen Victoria was queen (1837 – 1901).
Modern	Something that belongs to the present day.
Discipline	Ways teachers made sure children behaved properly.
Punishment	Something unpleasant given when rules were broken.
Slate	A small black board used for writing with chalk.
Chalk	A soft white stick used to write on slates and blackboards.
Classroom	A room where children learn together.
Teacher	An adult who teaches children.
Equipment	Tools used for learning, such as books or computers.

Victorian Schools

What were Victorian schools like?

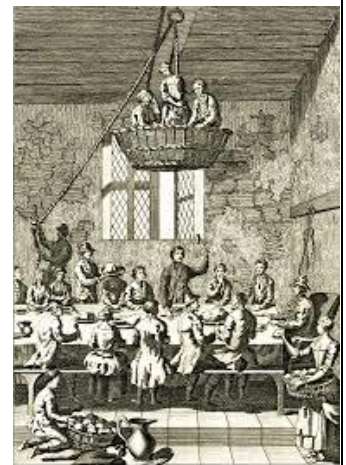
- Classrooms were often cold and uncomfortable.
- Children sat in straight rows and were expected to sit still.
- Lessons were very strict and quiet.
- Teachers were very bossy, and children were not allowed to talk.
- Children learned by repeating facts and copying from the board.
- Writing was done on slates with chalk. Paper was expensive.
- Children wore plain uniforms or old clothes.
- Boys and girls were sometimes taught separately.
- Punishments could be harsh (e.g. standing in the corner, lines, or the cane).
- School days were long, and breaks were short.
- Poor children sometimes had to work instead of going to school.



Modern Day Schools

What are schools like today?

- Classrooms are usually warm, colourful and comfortable.
 - Children sit at tables, on carpets, or in groups.
 - Lessons are interactive with discussions and activities.
 - Teachers are kind and supportive.
- Children learn through games, group work and practical tasks.
 - Writing is done in exercise books or on whiteboards.
 - Schools use technology like computers, tablets and smartboards.
 - Boys and girls learn together.
 - Rules are fair and focus on kindness and safety.
 - All children are expected to go to school.



Similarities (Same Then and Now)

- Children learn reading, writing and maths.
- Schools have teachers and classrooms.
- Children must follow rules.
- Learning happens every weekday.

Key Facts to Remember

- Victorian schools were much stricter than schools today.
- Children had fewer rights in the past.
- Modern schools focus on enjoyment, safety and fairness.
- Technology has changed how children learn.



Think Like a Historian

What sources could help us learn about Victorian schools? (photos, diaries, objects)

Why do you think school rules have changed?