

Information for Schools  
Key Stage 1 & 2

# Victorian Christmas Day

at Beaumanor Hall

Beaumanor offers a superb combination of a Victorian Christmas day, whilst contributing to the history curriculum as part of a local area of study. The focus is on a Victorian child's Christmas, delivered via empathetic and experiential learning beyond the classroom.

Find out  
what it was  
like to live as  
a child in the  
1850s!



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Beaumanor Hall is owned and operated by Leicestershire County Council

## Core activities:

### Arrival and welcome

Victorian History of Beaumanor Hall

### Christmas during Victorian times

The children will discuss Christmas traditions, play parlour games and have a story read to them.

### Victorian Servants Activity

The children will be required to set a christmas table using various crockery and decorations. Servants even had to work on christmas day.

### Victorian Schoolroom

The children will have an opportunity to experience a Victorian lesson with the teacher in character. They will create a traditional Christmas greetings card.

### Carols in the Hall

A short carol concert will take place in the main Hall. The children will have an opportunity to experience the grandeur of the staircase and stained glass window while singing some favourite Christmas carols.

### Seeing Santa - this is a surprise activity!

The children will call for and see Santa from a distance then meet him face to face in the grotto. It will be more fun if you do not tell the children about this beforehand!

### Visit to Santa's Grotto

The children will meet Santa and receive a small gift.

### Finish and depart

## Tips for visiting schools

If you bring a large group, the children should be separated into single class sizes and they will do the activities in rotation.

We will lead and provide song sheets for the carol singing. However, if you would like to lead this session yourselves, please let us know. We have a piano for your use.

For schools with 36 – 72 visiting pupils, please split your group into 2.

For schools with 73 – 108 visiting pupils, please split your group into 3.

There will be a half-hour lunch break when your staff will be required to supervise the children.

## Coming to Beaumanor in Victorian Costume

It will make your day more enjoyable if you, your leaders and your children come to Beaumanor in costume, with a period packed lunch. It will enable the children to get a much better feel for the period and will highlight some of the things you will undoubtedly have been telling them about Victorian life and manners.



## Further Information to help you enjoy your day

### Costume

The day will be very loosely set around the 1850s-1860s, which is around the time that the Hall was completed. Your group can be children of the estate workers and servants, allowed to come to the Hall as a special treat at Christmas time. If possible, the children should not wear watches or jewellery.

#### Girls

- Long sleeved, high necked blouses and dresses or calf/ankle length skirts
- A pinafore and mob cap, a shawl (optional)
- Tights and outdoor shoes
- Hair in plaits, bunches or ringlets, pinned up or neatly brushed

#### Boys

- Long sleeved shirt, long trousers or breeches, long socks and outdoor shoes/boots
- Neckerchief or muffler, waistcoat and flat cap
- **Everyone will need a warm outdoor coat (as we will be going outside)**

### Packed Lunch

The packed lunches should reflect the fact that plastic bags and lunch boxes had not been invented, there were almost no fast foods and most food was plain, simple and local.

#### The food

- Cheese sandwiches and/or bread and jam
- Cooked ham, boiled eggs and pickle
- Gingerbread biscuits, sugar mice, apples and pears
- Ginger beer or old-fashioned 'flat' lemonade in a glass bottle (if safe)

#### The containers

- Wrapped in greaseproof paper and tied up in a plain tea towel or piece of sheet
- Carried in a cloth satchel or wickerwork basket.

