

# Life in the Workhouse



# Article 32

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- Governments must protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or education.
- We linked this article to our work on the Victorians.
- During English, we have been reading a novel (Street Child) set in the Victorian Times and one of our characters, Jim, enters the workhouse when times get hard.



# Entering and Leaving The Workhouse

- People entered the Workhouse because they were too poor, old or ill to support themselves.
- To enter the Workhouse, you would have to pass through the 'Archway Of Tears'.
- Families would be split up and only meet again on Sundays for half an hour.





# Daily Routine

- Children had to wake up at five o'clock, to be ready for work at seven. They had their dinner from twelve to one in the afternoon.
- The young and old as well as men and women were made to **work hard**, often doing unpleasant jobs.
- Children could also find themselves 'hired out' (sold) to work in factories or mines.



# Rules and Punishments

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- There were a lot of rules, such as:
- No noise when silence is ordered
- Never pretend to be sick
- Never disobey a staff member at the Workhouse
- If you broke any of the rules you would be punished. This could include being whipped or not eating for 24 hours.



# Day in the Workhouse

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On Tuesday afternoon, Year 6 spent their afternoon living the life of a Workhouse child.

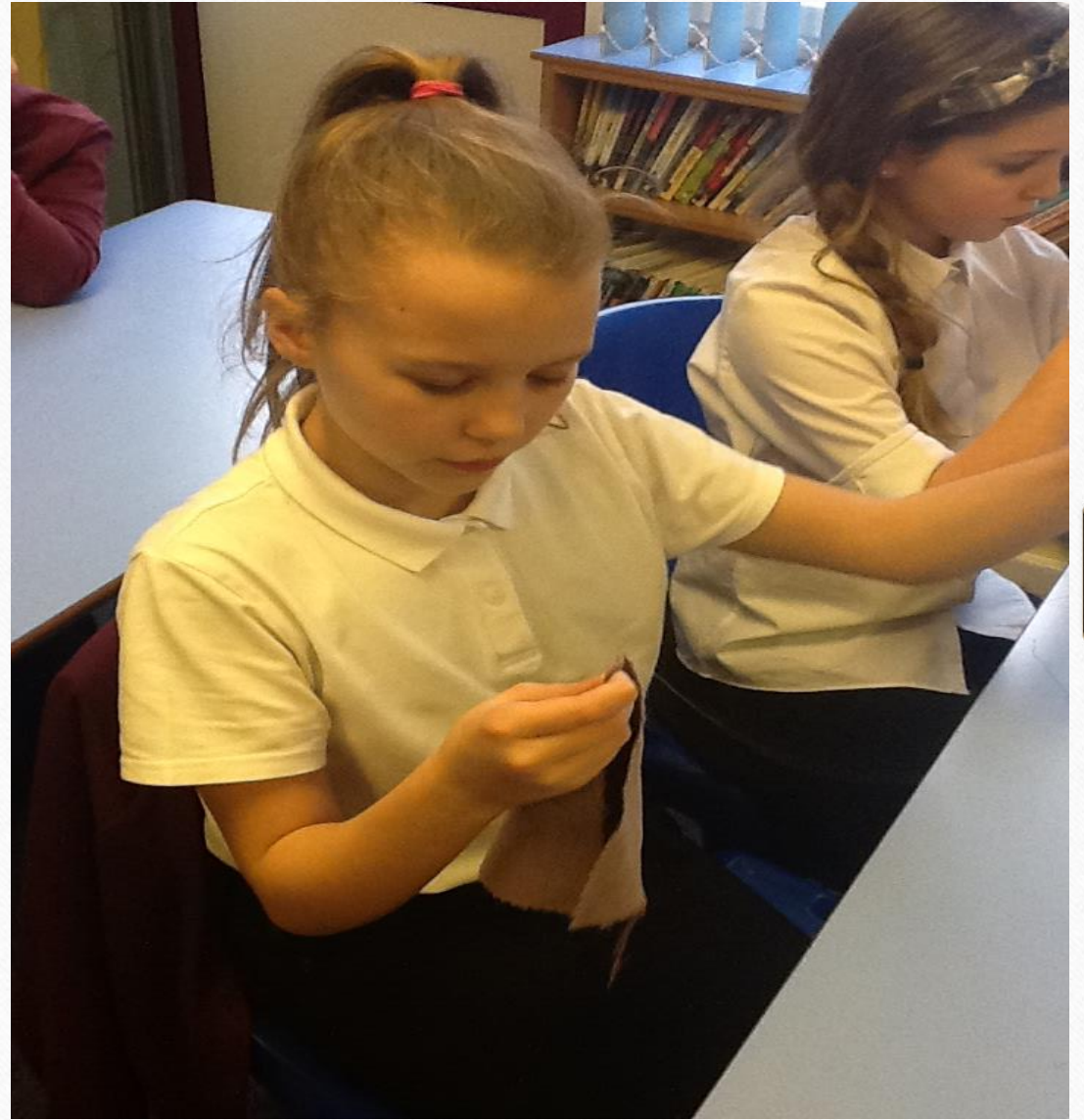
The girls had to wash up equipment from around the school, peel potatoes and sew all in preparation for living in their own home.

Boys had to garden, weave and polish shoes in preparation for growing up. When the boys returned from working outside, they had to write lines in their neatest writing - '*I shall take my work seriously*' 20 times.

# Girls









# Boys





