School Days

Time words and phrases

The **past** describes a time before the present. The words 'last' and 'ago' are often used to explain when something happened in the past.

The **present** describes the time now.

The ***future*** describes a time that hasn't happened yet. The word 'next' is often used to describe when something will happen in the future.

past	**present**	***future***
yesterday	now	tomorrow
days ago	today	next week
weeks ago		next year
last month		
a long time ago		

Victorian era

The Victorian era was the time from 1837 to 1901 when Queen Victoria was the monarch of the United Kingdom.

Queen Victoria



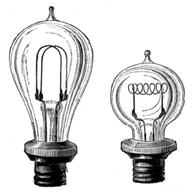
Queen Victoria was loved by her people. She ruled the United Kingdom and the people in other countries who were part of the British Empire.

Industrial Revolution



Victoria became queen during the start of the Industrial Revolution. At this time, new machines were invented and factories were built. The Industrial Revolution made the United Kingdom a very powerful and rich country.

New inventions



Electric light bulbs, telephones, motor cars, bicycles, postage stamps and Christmas cards were all invented during the Victorian era.

Rich people



Rich Victorian people lived in large houses and were looked after by servants. Rich children had beautiful clothes and many toys. They went to boarding school or were taught at home.

Poor people



Poor Victorian people lived in small houses and worked in factories, coal mines and mills. Poor children wore rags and had little food to eat. Many went to work instead of going to school.

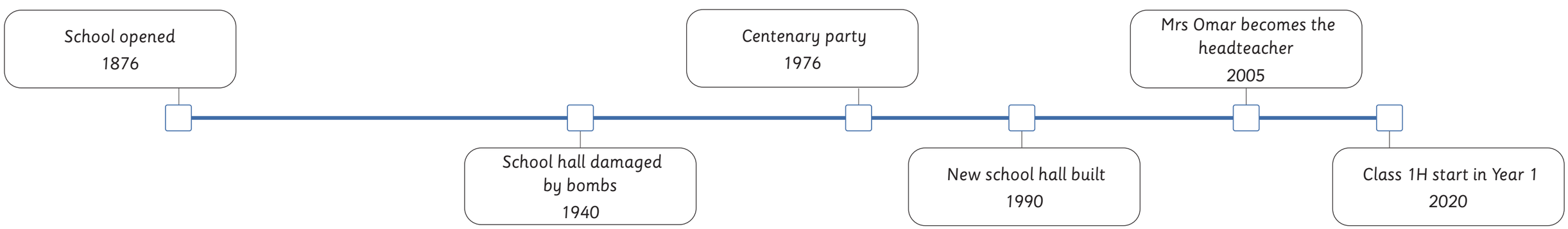
Leisure time



Seaside holidays, visiting museums and art galleries and spending time in public parks became popular in the Victorian era.

Timelines

A timeline shows information in chronological order. This timeline shows important events in the history of a school. The opening of the school is on the left-hand side because it happened first. The present day is on the right-hand side because it shows the most recent events.



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Victorian schools

Lessons

Reading, writing and arithmetic were called the three Rs. They were the most important lessons in Victorian schools alongside religious education. Other lessons included needlework for girls and woodwork for boys.



Classrooms

Some classrooms held up to 70 or 80 children. Boys and girls sat separately. Children sat in rows and faced the front. The teacher used a blackboard and wrote with chalk. Children wrote on slates with slate pencils.



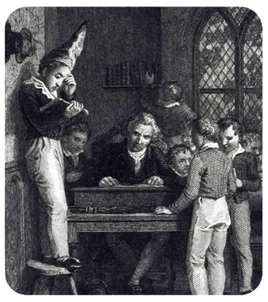
Teachers

Most teachers were very strict in Victorian times. They expected children to behave well and be clean and tidy. They punished children who misbehaved or didn't work hard enough.



Punishments

There were many punishments in Victorian classrooms. Teachers hit children with a cane if they misbehaved or made them wear a dunce's hat if they hadn't worked hard enough.



Samuel Wilderspin

Samuel Wilderspin was a teacher who is known as the founder of infant education. He had enjoyed learning at home and looked forward to going to school. When he started school he didn't like the strict teachers or the boring lessons. He believed that children should enjoy school and be happy. He invented the school playground so children could play outside.



Samuel Wilderspin (1791–1866)

Glossary

arithmetic	Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing.
cane	A long piece of wood or bamboo that was used to punish children in the Victorian era.
centenary	The 100 year anniversary of a place or event.
chronological	The order in which events happened.
dunce's cap	A cone-shaped hat with a letter D on the front, which was worn by children in the Victorian era as a punishment.
invention	Something new that has never been made before.
monarch	A king or queen who rules a kingdom.
punishment	An unpleasant experience or task given to someone who has broken a rule.
strict	Following and enforcing rules exactly.

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