

Issue no 5 Friday 3rd October 2014

Bromley Museum



The children in Year 5 had a brilliant day at Bromley Museum on 19th September 2014. The children handled and learned about lots of different Victorian artefacts.



They took part in a Victorian wash day...



and made peg dolls.....



Dolls were known as 'toy babies' until the 18th century when the word 'doll' - short for Dorothy - first came into use. They were made of clay, wood, rags, bones and even ivory and wax in an attempt to make them as life like as possible. In the 17th and 18th century

children played with Dutch dolls called 'Flanders babies'.



In America these dolls were called peg dolls although they were not made out of pegs. During the 19th century the Victorians used to make some of their peg dolls into pedlar dolls adding little trinkets to the

finished doll when they could. The tradition of making peg dolls out of wooden clothes pegs comes from a time when people had little money to spend on toys.



When toy making stopped during World War 2, children would make toys from items they found in and outside their homes.

Did you know that ?

Victorian children did not have teddy bears. The first teddy bear was made in 1903.

Here are some examples of toys from the Victorian period:

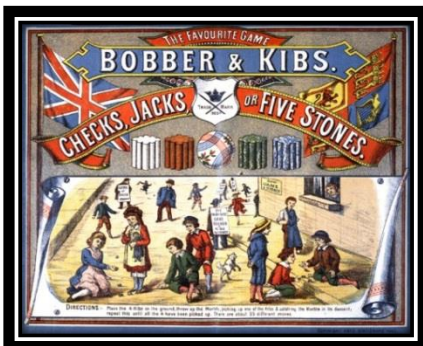
Have a go at answering some of the questions too!

- *Are they the same as, or similar to, toys today?*
- *What would have been your favourite toy, if you had been a child in Victorian times?*
- *Were many Victorian toys 'educational'?*
- *Would you say Victorian children had more fun than children today? Or less?*
- *Did they have more freedom than children today?*



Games

This alphabet/spelling game (1850) had letters that stacked inside the box.



Adverts

Toy-makers advertised their toys and games. This is an advertisement for a boxed game of jacks, or five stones.



A jack-in-the-box

Victorians loved mechanical and 'surprise' toys, like this one



A rocking horse

A toy like this was too expensive for most families. Children who were unable to buy one would play with a home-made wooden horse. All Victorian rocking horses were grey with dappled markings. The horse's mane and tail were made from real horsehair.



Jigsaw puzzles

Jigsaw puzzles were popular. This puzzle, made in 1870, shows people riding bicycles - a new craze!



Diabolo

A popular Victorian toy was the diabolo - you tossed it in the air, using a string, and tried to catch it again!

Fruit snacks



A reminder that children should only bring **fruit** into school for morning play time if they are in key stage 2. There has been some confusion in the Year 3 classes.

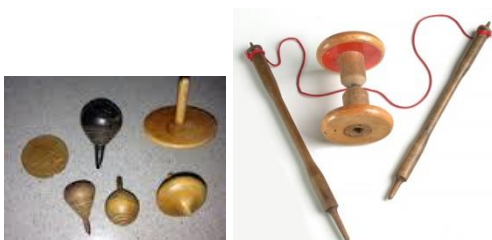
Bethnal Green Museum

Year one had a fantastic time this week visiting the museum of childhood in Bethnal Green.



They enjoyed looking at toys from different times and playing with some of the interactive exhibits.

The children also took part in a workshop about toys in the past. They compared old and new toys and played with some toys that Victorian children enjoyed such as spinning tops and diabolos.



They discovered that some Victorian children from poor families made their own toys and then all of the children were able to make their own peg doll.

Some information about the museum



The V&A Museum of Childhood in [Bethnal Green](#) in the [East End](#) of [London](#) is a branch of the [Victoria and Albert Museum](#), which is the [United Kingdom's](#) national museum of applied arts.



The museum was founded in 1872 as the Bethnal Green Museum and has the largest collection of childhood objects in the United Kingdom.

Have a lovely weekend!

Alison Moller



Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

Japan Matsuri - Trafalgar Square

FREE (All Ages)

Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN /

www.japanmatsuri.com

Nearest Tube: Charing Cross

Sat 27th Sep, 11am-9pm

This festival of Japanese culture will pack Trafalgar Square with martial arts, traditional arts and crafts, food and drink, live music and family activities including origami and manga art. Cute mascots from Japanese towns and cities will take to the stage for the Yurukyara Mascot Show, and the whole crowd can do three minutes of exercise led by Radio Taiso.



Thames Festival

FREE (All ages)

Between Westminster Bridge and Tower Bridge /

www.thamesfestival.org

Sat 27th & Sun 28th Sept, noon-10.45pm

Please check the website for the full programme – highlights include:

The Great River Race - Sat 27th, starting cannon at 12.10pm: a spectacular 21 mile boat race up the Thames that attracts over 300 crews from all over the globe – starts at London Docklands and travels to Ham in Surrey.



Pearly Kings and Queens Harvest Festival

Guildhall Yard, Gresham St, EC2V 5AE /

www.pearlyociety.co.uk

Nearest Tube: Bank / Mansion House

Sun 28th Sep, from 1pm

Celebrate the harvest with the pearly kings and queens who will be wearing their traditional pearl button suits as they parade from Guildhall to St Mary-le-Bow Church for a service of thanksgiving.



Artist Book - Pump House Gallery

FREE (All Ages)

Battersea Park, SW11 4NJ / 020 8871 7572 /

www.pumphousegallery.org.uk

Bus: 137

Sun 28th Sep, 11.30am-3.30pm

Ever wanted to make an artist book...but don't know how? Well here is your chance to learn the many skills and techniques available to make your own book. Mix old envelopes with tracing paper, experiment with various folding techniques, Create an 'accordion' style book or transform scrap paper into something unique. With so many different forms to explore, you will be surprised with what you end up making.



Junior Dig the Park - Brockwell Park

FREE (Ages 5+)

Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses, SE24 /

07427 685 714 /

www.brockwellgreenhouses.org.uk

Sun 28th Sep, 10.30am-12.30pm

Looking for an enjoyable family activity that will also benefit your local park, teach your children some garden know-how and keep you all rosy-cheeked through the winter? Try Junior Dig the Park. Dress appropriately, tools, warm drinks and snack provided. Some gloves available but bring your own if you have them.



Family Sunday – Dulwich Picture Gallery

£3 per child or **FREE** with a ticket to the gallery

(Accompanied children all ages)

Gallery Rd, Dulwich, SE21 7AD / 020 8693 5254 /

www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

Bus: P4, 3, P13 or 37

Sun 28th Sept, 2pm – 4pm

Polyblock Posies - You and your children will have the opportunity to enjoy being creative together in this practical drop in Artplay session and/or you can listen and participate in the interactive **Gallery Stories** in the permanent collection. **No booking necessary.**