

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEET

SOURCES

Source 1. Logbook extract from East Parade Board School, Girls' Department, Horsham, 1881

Source 2. Logbook extract from South Bersted National School, 1879

Source 3. School Logbook Extracts from schools in West Sussex, 1880-1888

Source 4. Print from *Punch Magazine* showing a boy scaring birds from the fields, 1852

Source 5. Watercolour painting showing children gathering blackberries, c1855

What reasons did children have for not attending school in the Victorian era? What reasons are there for children missing school today? List as many reasons as you can find in the sources for Victorian children, and as many as you can think of for today.

VICTORIAN	TODAY

Source 1a

Logbook extract from East Parade Board School, Girls' Department, Horsham, 1881

1881 Jan:
 .. 17th Reopened School after three weeks holiday. Attendance not good, the weather being very cold only 40 present in the morning.
 .. 18th Owing to very stormy weather no children attended; School closed all day.
 .. 19th Received notice from the Board to close for the remainder of the week and afterwards not to open the ensuing week.

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Source 1b

Retyped copy of 1a

1881 Jan	Reopened School after three weeks holiday.
" 17th	Attendance not good, the weather being very cold only 40 persons in the morning.
" 18th	Owing to very stormy weather no children attended. School closed all day.
" 19th	Received notice from the Board to close for the remainder of the week and afterwards not to open the ensuing week.

Source 2

Logbook extract from South Bersted National School, 1879

Pay special attention to July 28 and 30, September 1 and 12

Date	Event
July 17 th	Rev. W. B. Philpot distributed 21 certificates in Divinity granted by the diocesan Inspector.
23.	Rev. W. B. Philpot. Mrs Philpot and a gentleman visited and heard the children sing.
28	Attendance poor. Chicken-pox prevalent.
30	About twenty children away, suffering from chicken-pox.
Aug. 1 st	Notice given of Mid-Summer Vacation
September 1.	School re-opened. Attendance very poor.
1	Standard children harvesting.
2.	Mr Davis visited, - accompanied by Miss Griffin
5	Mr Davis visited in the morning. average for the week 39.4. Four withdrawals. Three admissions
11 th	Rev. - Neil. visited and was present during Scripture lesson. Holiday in the afternoon
12 th	Attendance very poor. average for the week 38.1 Every child absent employed in Harvesting
15 th	Mr Davies visited in the morning
17 th	" " "
18 th	Holiday in the afternoon. Bognor flower show average for the week very bad. 33.5.

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Source 3

EXTRACTS FROM VICTORIAN SCHOOL LOG BOOKS

Aldingbourne Board School

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1880 Feb 27

Several of the children have been sent home this week as they were suffering from whooping cough.

1881 March 7 -11

Several absentees this week. Some absent on account of the weather, others employed in 'Bird scaring'.

1881 June 27 - July 1

The Haymaking season keeps a great many children away from school.

1884 Sept 15 -19

Blackberries being unusually abundant this year, several children are absent from school blackberry gathering.

1885 May 4 - 8

The wet weather has kept several absent from school this week on account of distance from school & lack of water-tight shoes.

Cocking National School

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1880 Feb 19

Very wet this morning. Many children from Bepton & Linch were so wet on reaching school that they were sent home again.

1881 Jan 21

There has been but one day's school this week owing to the severe snowstorm which commenced last Tuesday morning. On that morning only 10 children presented themselves; the next day 4; the next 2; and the next none at all.

1881 Aug 8

As not more than a dozen of the elder children came to school this morning, harvesting being now very general, the school was closed for harvest & hopping vacation.

East Grinstead Board School: Girls' Department

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1885 Oct 30

Some of the girls attend very badly. The excuse is 'Wanted at home'.

1887 Feb 18

Several of the big girls have left school & gone out as servants.

1887 May 6

Attendance 10 less this week than last. I think this is owing to children carrying out their May garlands on Monday.

Ifield National School

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1880 April 30

Poor attendance this afternoon. Several children away getting flowers for May-day.

1880 Aug 13

Closed school this afternoon for four weeks Harvest Holidays.

1880 Nov 30

Several boys who have not passed the required Standard employed often by Major Ripon (magistrate), beating for his shooting.

1882 Nov 3

Found several boys absent getting wood for bonfire.

Worth National School

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1883 May 1

The attendance very poor to-day in consequence of many boys being away, carrying May Poles about.

1884 June 23

The attendance very poor this morning, there being 45 boys absent, chiefly owing to the Small Pox scare; it having broken out in one of the families at the Bridges.

1885 Jan 26

Received the answer to a number of enquiries as to the cause of irregular attendances of a number of the boys and the excuses given are chiefly illness, beating, minding the baby, going errands & chillblains.

Source 4

A boy scaring birds from the fields, 1852



Punch Magazine Vol XXIII July-Dec 1852
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Source 5

Children gather blackberries, c1855



The Blackberry Gatherers by David Cox
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