

Gressenhall and Dreamy Hollow By Amelia Humphrey-Piercy

On Tuesday 20th June, Y5 (Heigham and Turner class) went on a trip to Gressenhall and Dreamy Hollow. We had a half hour coach journey to get to our first destination – Gressenhall – and it was very loud, by the end of it I had a roaring headache.

When we arrived, we were led into a white marquee where a woman named Rachel and a man named Jim (Mr Bradfield) gave us an introduction. My class was taken by Jim first while the other class went with Rachel for a tour of the workhouse.

First, sir – that’s what we had to call him – split us into two lines, girls and boys before we marched into the Edwardian classroom, ladies first so that the ‘gentlemen’ could be gentlemanly.

After we were settled, Sir taught us some basic Edwardian phrases;

- ‘Children should be seen but not heard’
- ‘Cleanliness is next to Godliness’
- ‘Respect your elders and your betters’
- ‘The Devil makes work for idle hands’

Secondly we did history, this is how it went;

‘In 1492

Columbus sailed the ocean blue

Three ships he used to sail the sea

The Pinto, the Nina and the Santa-Marie.’

We learnt that by by Rote which means by heart.

When we’d finished that, we moved onto Geography in which Sir pointed at a country in the British Empire and we had to name it as fast as possible. Sir also told us about the Dunce hat. If you were stupid, you would have to wear it and stand in the corner while everyone chanted ‘Dunce, Dunce, Dunce’. Sadly, he didn’t make anyone wear it. Finally, we had arithmetic and Sir brought out the abacus. He put Charlie in charge of it and so forth became Master Abacus.

Rachel, who had also finished her tour, came to collect us for ours.

First, we were taken outside the gate and Hollie and Kyle knocked, Kyle was turned away because he didn’t have any Parish Paper to say he was allowed in. Hollie, however, was allowed in because she did have it. When we were in, Rachel told us that the Porter would have come out and checked your head for lice, if you had them he would have shaved your head, if you didn’t, then he would just cut your hair short before scrubbing you clean. You’d be given a uniform and if you were ill you would go to the hospital, especially if it was contagious.