

Costume Information Sheet

Victorian Servants

Date: 1896/7, Victoria is Queen of England

Where are we going?

You are going to the Mansion at Tatton Park to work as a servant for the day. Some of the work you will be doing is very hard! This might include scrubbing cold, hard stone floors on your hands and knees, and carrying heavy buckets of coal up to the bedrooms, so be prepared!

Etiquette

This means 'how to behave'! In Victorian times everybody knew 'their station' (position) in society and there were lots of rules. During your day at Tatton you must remember not to speak to members of the family unless you are spoken to first. You should call the butler "Sir" and the Housekeeper "Ma'am". If you happen to meet a member of the family or a visitor in the house, stop to let them pass. Boys should then bow, and girls must curtsy.

What to bring

If possible, bring one item of silver or copper for cleaning, but make sure you ask permission first from your parents.

What to Wear

We find that some sort of costume, however simple, helps everyone to enter into the Victorian servant's world. However, you should remember that big country houses like Tatton are often cold and draughty, it's important that you are warmly dressed!

Victorian Servants

Boys

Servants wore turned up collars with a plain necktie or cravat and a crisp, white shirt.

Plain, dark coloured waistcoats were worn by all the menservants and were usually a cast-off from the master. Trousers can be either long or short, tucked into socks or cut off and elasticated at the knee.

Socks should be long and dark coloured. Wear black shoes or pumps or lace-up boots, but not trainers!



Girls

A mob cap can be made from a circle of white cotton, gathered with a drawstring or elastic. Hair should be tied back tightly or tucked under the cap.

Wear a long dark or printed dress buttoned up to your neck, or a light blouse and long, dark skirt with a wide belt.

Flat shoes are essential, preferably in a dark colour. To be really authentic, you could wear lace up boots...

We can provide a long white apron for girls and a short one for the boys, when you get here.

Teachers and accompanying adults - please come in costume too! You will need to bring your own apron.