## 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

yesterday
days ago
weeks ago
last month
a long time ago
present
now
today

## 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.


## 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.

## 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 (1791-1866)

## Glossary

| arithmetic | Adding, subtracting, multiplying <br> and dividing. |
| :--- | :--- |
| cane | A long piece of wood or bamboo <br> that was used to punish children <br> in the Victorian era. |


| centenary | The 100 year anniversary of a <br> 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 <br> been made before. |
| :--- | :--- |
| monarch | A king or queen who rules a <br> kingdom. |

punishment An unpleasant experience or task given to someone who has broken a rule.
strict $\quad$ Following and enforcing rules exactly.

