

Children of the Mills

Travel back to 1797 and learn about life at Cromford Mills!

Led by expert guides, enjoy a fully led, resourced, interactive historical role-play day. Your class will be immersed in the history of the mill, have a go at textile crafts and discover the hidden gems of Cromford village. This session is suitable for Key Stage 2, however we are happy to adapt the day to suit your specific learning needs and objectives.

Pre-visit activities

We will send you a newspaper advert in which Richard Arkwright seeks new workers, especially children, for his expanding cotton mills. We will also provide sample role-play names and family occupations. These can be used at school for creative work, to encourage research or to introduce your class visit to Cromford. There are also videos available to watch; these introduce you to our mill workers Mrs Froggott and Mrs Henstock.

This is what a typical day with us could look like:

10.00	<p>Arrive and go straight to the 'Arkwright Experience' A short 3D cinematic audio-visual display in which Richard Arkwright appears and describes to visitors his achievements at Cromford.</p>
10.20	<p>Education Room: Safety briefing and introduction to Mrs Froggott and Mrs Henstock Children are introduced to the concept of role play and get into costume as mill workers (there are adult costumes too!).</p>
10.30	<p>A new life at the Mill Mrs Froggott and Mrs Henstock are keen to share their experiences of working at the mills and talk to the children about what to expect in their new jobs, wages, discipline, the conditions of work and their new house.</p>
11.00	<p>Break</p>
11.15	<p>"Nimble fingers and quick learners" Guided by Mrs Froggott and Mrs Henstock, children rotate around 4 activities. They will learn how to card the raw cotton, spin yarn on drop spindles, weave a class wall hanging that they can take away and sign their apprentice indentures in ink.</p>
12.15	<p>Lunch – either in the Education Room, or in nice weather classes can picnic near the canal or river.</p>
1.00	<p>Where will I live? Mrs Froggott and Mrs Henstock will lead the new workers on a tour of the mill site and Cromford village, still in role and still in costume. Children will see the workers' housing, where the Arkwrights lived, the lock up and the church where Richard Arkwright is buried.</p>
2.15	<p>Final thoughts A plenary session to give children the opportunity to reflect on the life of 'Children of the Mills', come out of costume and prepare to leave.</p>
2.30	<p>Depart from Cromford Mills</p>

Post visit activities

Please follow this link <https://www.cromfordmills.org.uk/primary-school> or look on the Cromford Mills website and follow the link through 'Learning' where you will find a downloadable collection of pdf documents.

Please contact Eleanor if you would like more information, or to book a visit or pre-visit: egunn@arkwrightsociety.org.uk; 01629 343058 (direct line).