

Children of the Mills KS2

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.

Pre-visit activities

We can send you a newspaper advert in which Richard Arkwright seeks new workers, especially children, for his expanding cotton mills. There are also videos available to watch; these introduce you to our mill workers Mrs Froggott and Mrs Henstock.

We can adapt the day as necessary to match the priorities of your visit and meet the needs of all your learners. This is what a typical day with us could look like:

9.30	Arrival and safety briefing Your guide will meet you off the coach and take you to the Education Room, your base for the day.
9.45	The Arkwright Experience A short 3D cinematic audio-visual display in which Richard Arkwright appears and describes to visitors his achievements at Cromford. Your guide will also show you the first mill, our model waterwheels and a model of the waterframe, Arkwright's cotton-spinning machine.
10.30	Break
10.45	Travel back in time Children are introduced to the concept of role play and get into costume as mill workers (there are adult costumes too!). We consider how the room would have looked back in 1797 through a comparison of materials and objects, before travelling back in time to meet our Georgian mill workers.
11.10	A new life at the Mill Our Georgian mill workers are keen to share their experiences of working at the mills and talk to the children about what to expect in their new jobs, including wages, discipline, the conditions of work and their new house.
11.40	"Nimble fingers and quick learners" Guided by our Georgian mill workers, children rotate around four activities. They will learn how to card the raw cotton, spin yarn on drop spindles, weave using a hand loom and sign their apprentice indentures using pen and ink.
12.30	Lunch – either in the Education Room, or in nice weather classes can picnic near the canal or in the mill yard
1.00	Where will I live? The new workers take a tour of Cromford village. The children will see the workers' housing, the marketplace, the houses where the Arkwright family lived, the old lock up, and the church where Sir Richard Arkwright is buried.
2.15	Final thoughts A plenary session to give children the opportunity to reflect on the life of the 'Children of the Mills' and prepare to leave.
2.30	Depart from Cromford Mills

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 Lyndsay if you would like more information, or to book a visit and/or pre-visit: learning@arkwrightsociety.org.uk; 01629 343058 (direct line)