

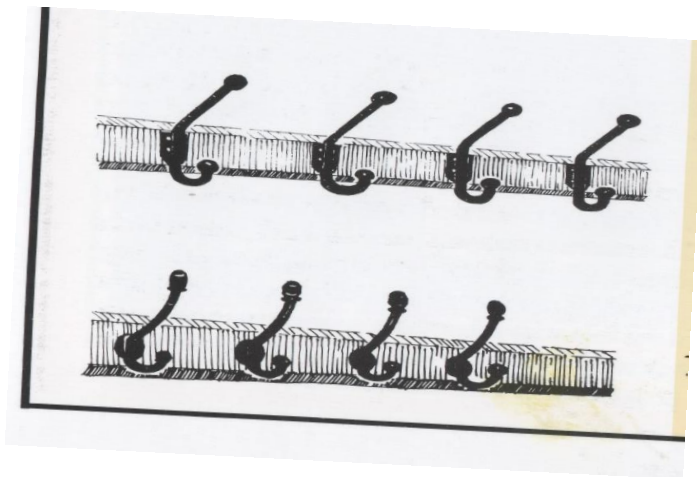
School days just now are rather different for pupils and teachers when many of you are having school at home. But we are still very lucky. Let us have a look at school days a long time ago.

How do you waken up on a normal school day, when you actually do go to school?

Who wakens you? Is it your parents, a younger toddler or baby crying, an alarm clock or your phone? Do you know what wakened children and parents a long time ago, when there were no alarm clocks or phones?

How did children get to school all those many years ago when there were no trains, buses or cars?

What do you hang your coat and bags on at school?



Many years ago, these were the pegs that were used at school and at Sunday School.

What do you sit on at school today?



Many years ago, children sat on desks like these. They often had imprints on the top like the picture above right. Any idea how the squares were used?

We are not sure but, we think the children were given counters to place in the squares to do simple sums or to work out simple times tables. They may have used the lines to guide them when placing a ruler to draw straight lines on paper. However, paper was very expensive and not readily available.

I wonder if you all know what this is? We are lucky today.



In Sunday school younger children sat on chairs. There wouldn't have been carpet



These were the benches older children sat on. Why do they have slots in by the metal bars supporting the top backrest? These benches were very heavy and the cast iron is so strong and solid that many survived until today. The wood work was more likely to rot but with care this too has been preserved until now. After Sunday school, older children moved into Junior church and became members of the church as young adults.

Answers:

The sunshine coming in through the thin curtains or the cockerel crowing would have wakened everyone.

Children would have walked or run to school probably across the fields in the countryside.

The cane! Perhaps you could ask the older members of your family about this.

The slots in the benches were so that the backrest could be used in different positions. The children faced the front, for the beginning of Sunday school, to listen to the person in charge and to sing hymns and to pray and then some needed to face away from the front to join other children in their class and the teacher for a lesson.