

# Christmas



## Memories of a local child.

The school was built by the Neeld family. The Neelds were rich. Every year they invited the children to a Christmas party. This what one girl remembers:

“We would put our coats on tables in a passage and go into the servants’ hall for tea. We had to take our own cups and what a job it was sorting them out after. Our tea was usually sandwiches and cake. The children of the estate workers, who went to the village school, ate in the servants’ hall. The children belonging to the farmers or more important people, (Head gardener, groom etc) had their tea in a different room.

## Victorian Christmas Card

After tea we would go into the Domestic Court. This was a huge round room where the bells from the rooms were hanging on the walls. There was a very big Christmas tree which was nicely decorated and with a present for each child. Sir Audley and his brother would put on masks and chase us round before giving out the presents. Of course we always had to say “Thank you Sir Audley” (and even today in our family we still say “Thank you Sir Audley,” when we have our gifts from our own tree).

When it was time to leave we would all walk round the hall to go by Lady Neeld who would give each child a currant bun to take home. It was certainly one of the highlights of our life.

*Imagine you have been invited to a Christmas party at the big house. Write what happened. Here’s a sentence to start you off:*

**It was Christmas morning and I was so excited because I was looking forward to the party....**



**Joseph Neeld, who built  
Sevington School**