



Midsomer Norton Primary School

'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership'

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we mentioned in our initial letter, we would love all the children visiting the Swindon Steam Museum on Thursday 29th February to be dressed as evacuees. During the day, children will re-enact the experience of being evacuated, sing songs inside a bomb shelter, find out how families' lives changed due to the war and discover how the railways were used during the war. To be fully immersed in these experiences, including dressing up appropriately will enhance the experience for everyone.

Most children, during WWII would have been evacuated with their school, wearing school uniform, so our own school uniform is perfectly acceptable as an appropriate evacuee costume.

If you would like some further ideas to help create a costume, we have included some helpful tips:

Lots of clothes would have been hand knitted. Old knitted garments were unravelled and re-knitted (one reason there were so many striped and fair isle garments during the War). Mothers would have been busy sewing, embroidering, lace making, crocheting and tatting; clothes would not have been thrown away, but darned and patched and finally made into something else e.g. rag rugs and dusters. 'Hand me downs' passed through the family from older to younger children, so children's clothes seldom fitted them properly.

Some Ideas:

Girls

- Buckled or lace up shoes in black or brown
- White knee or ankle socks
- Knee length cotton dress – patterned or plain
- White or patterned blouse buttoned up to the neck
- Knee length skirt in grey, black, navy, flowered print or a kilt
- Cardigan (girls would not have worn jumpers)
- Beret or woolly hat
- Hair worn in two bunches or two plaits (secured with ribbon) or ribbon worn around the head 'Alice band' style or hair slides with a ribbon bow attached

Boys

- Buckled or lace up shoes in black or brown
- Grey or black knee socks
- Grey, black or brown knee length shorts with braces
- Grey, black or brown trousers with braces
- White, light grey or light blue, striped or checked long sleeved shirt buttoned up to the neck
- A tie, plain, checked or striped

- V necked long sleeve or sleeveless pullover or cardigan
- Blazer in brown, burgundy, navy, black, stripes or checked
- School or cricket style cap or flat cap

Try to avoid

- Modern fabrics and fastenings like denim, Lycra and Velcro
- Modern logos and images
- Sportswear of any kind, including trainers and baseball caps
- T shirts and sweat shirts
- Watches, jewellery including rings and earrings, scrunchies and other modern hair accessories

In addition, children could make a cardboard gas mask box, to be worn around the body on a piece of string. We will provide the children with replica evacuation labels, ration books and identity cards.

Please don't hesitate to ask any of the Year 5/6 staff if you require any further help.

Thank you for your continued support

The Year 5/6 team.

