On Tuesday the 14th May, the Year 2 children, teachers and some mothers went on an excursion to Rouse Hill House and Farm. We went back in time to 1889 and had a taste of what school was like back then.

When we arrived we got dressed into clothes from 1889. The girls wore white dresses and straw hats and the boys had colourful jackets that went down to their belly button and a cap. We also got given a new identity for the day. The new names we got were the actual names of students from Rouse Hill Public school in 1889.

We learnt that everyone had many brothers, sisters and cousins in the same class because families were very big in those days. We also learnt that you didn’t have to go to school. You were allowed to miss out if your parents wanted you to stay home and help out on the farm.

The classrooms looked very different to our classrooms of today. Inside they had long wooden benches and long wooden desks with a special place for slate boards and little holes for ink-wells and special pencils. Then Miss Fox our teacher for the day showed us the cane, luckily we were all on our very best behaviour so she didn’t have to use it on any of the children from Christ the King.

During the day we participated in several lessons. In the first lesson we did some number work with an abacus and some spelling. Then we did one of our favourite activities of the day, sewing, where we cross stitched a picture of an apple. Then we had a science lesson where learnt about the lifecycle of a silk worm. We also looked at real life preserved animals such as snakes, baby sharks, ring tail possums and magpies.

We also participated in outdoor drills, where we did some marching, used wooden dumbbells and danced around the maypole. The Maypole is a traditional dance that children used to participate in to celebrate the beginning of Spring in England.

It was the best excursion ever!

(Excerpts from Year 2 recounts)