**Growing Up and Going to School**

**Contents**

Girl’s school gym slip

Boater hat

Boy’s school cap

Grey shorts

School milk bottle

Utility pencil

Propelling pencil

Books:

‘Bunnikin’s Picnic Party’

‘Bob Bushtail’s Adventure’

‘Five Get Into a Fix’

‘Ideal Book for Boys’

Comics:

4 x copies of ‘The Rover’

4 x copies of ‘Eagle’

Games:

Pick-up Sticks

Totopoly

Mini Ten Pin Bowling

Marbles

Lexicon

Draughts

Domino

Ludo

Happy Families

Toys:

Small doll

7 x assorted Dinky/Corgi/Matchbox toys

6 x cup and ball

Jacob’s ladder

Whipping Top

Spinning top

Yoyo

Ball and cord puzzle

Pop-up clown

Diablo

Five stones

Laminated question sheet

Notes on Contents

Utility pencil: During the War manufacturers had to produce goods which were economical in order not to use resources needed for the ‘war effort’.

These objects – clothes, furniture, pencils etc. were marked with the word ‘Utility’ or the Utility sign:

School milk bottle: Each child was entitled to ⅓ pint of milk, which were delivered in small bottles like this one.

Small doll: these were known as ‘penny’ dolls because that’s what they cost. They were also known as ‘Frozen Charlotte’ dolls because their limbs were fixed.

**Ideas**

Dress up two children as a schoolboy and a schoolgirl of about 60 years ago, and invite the rest of the class to discuss what school would have been like for them, and how it differs from going to school today.

You could rearrange the desks and chairs to face the front and impose some 1940s/50s style discipline for a formal lesson!

‘Drill’ was often done in the classroom, with children standing behind their desks and the teacher leading the exercises from the front, so try that too!

There are enough toys and games for the whole class to share and try out.

Give pairs of children an object to handle and use the laminated question sheet to prompt them to look very carefully and to really examine and think about their object in terms of its look, feel, purpose and design, and also its value (in the widest sense).

The old toy cars are particularly good for this exercise, showing evidence of how they were made, how they have worn and what company made them.

Alternatively, start by asking the children to think of 10 questions they would want to ask about their object. Hopefully they will come up with many of those on the prompt sheet.