

# REACHING OUT

## We want to reach out!

As schools return, we look to support each school's efforts to get involved with the rich tapestry of culture and creativity within the borough. Tameside Cultural Services have been looking at how we can best use our years of experience and resources to support schools. We will link in with the Philosophy for Children, as well as the National Curriculum, the schools' recovery curriculum and the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give.

Each month, we will share information relating to our education offer as well as giving further ideas and ways to engage with our offer in your classroom. There will be activities from each of the Cultural Services teams and we will take the opportunity to highlight one of our site based workshops as when we are able to, we cannot wait to welcome you back to our sites and great outdoors.



## WAKES WEEK HOLIDAYS.

The Wakes Week is a holiday period in parts of England and Scotland. Originally a religious celebration or feast, the tradition of the Wakes Week developed into a secular holiday, particularly in North West England during the Industrial Revolution.

Although a strong tradition during the 19 and 20 centuries, the observance of the holiday has almost disappeared in recent times, due to the decline of the manufacturing industries in the United Kingdom and the standardisation of school holidays across England.

**culture**  
Tameside



## Wakes Weeks



**What was 'Wakes Week?' Why did factories close?**

**Why was it something that only really happened in the Northern England?**

'to get away from the roar of Ow'd Ned' meaning the noise and rattle of the spindles and looms in the mill was a popular saying .

By the middle of the 19th century, Wakes Weeks holidays became a tradition so that cotton mills and factories could be closed for maintenance. From June until September a different town in Lancashire was on holiday each week although the workers were not paid. For most children and their parents, this would have been the first time that they would have seen the sea. The expansion of the railway network led Blackpool to become the main resort to visit. To help pay for their holidays, workers would make regular payments into Wakes Saving Clubs throughout the year.

When the sending of postcards became popular towards the end of the 1880s, cards were sent from where they were staying in their thousands and were the equivalent of sending an email or text today.

For more information or to discuss please email:  
[archives@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:archives@tameside.gov.uk)



## Wakes Weeks



### Task

Write a postcard home to a family member or friend, telling them what you are doing on your Wakes week holiday to Blackpool. If you haven't been there yourself, you might want to mention the donkeys on the beach, Blackpool Tower that was built in 1894, the trams, the Pleasure Beach which was built two years later in 1896, the three piers, Blackpool rock and lots, lots more.... If you are still unsure, carry out some research.

### Postcard sent from Blackpool in 1915



Postcard template is on the next page. For an even more personalised card, perhaps you could create a postcard picture for the front? You could consider the seaside holidays you have been on in this country and draw pictures based on this.

### Resources:

**Paper and Pen. Any additional arts materials for poster design.**

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# Wakes Weeks



Postcard template

	<div data-bbox="1225 607 1461 842" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 148px; height: 105px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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