

## Local History Week

During our whole school local history week, we had great time learning all about the Botham family.

Botham's is a significant local business set up by Elizabeth Botham in 1865.

We invited her great great grandson Jo Botham into school to tell us more about his famous grandmother and to share with us some photographs and documents from his family archive.

Our **Reception Class** thought about birthdays and how each birthday marks the beginning of another year in our lives – and very importantly involves a birthday cake! They were very lucky to visit the Skinner Street Tearoom where Lois (a great, great, great granddaughter of Elizabeth Botham) showed them how to ice their famous celebration cakes, and, as if that wasn't brilliant enough, they got to decorate their own, enjoy juice and a biscuit and the birthday cake was delivered to school for them to enjoy!

Our **Year 1** class looked at the tradition of afternoon tea and the delicious treats that are included in this meal. Using historic recipes, the children created their own afternoon tea to enjoy – remembering to sit up straight and stick out their little fingers!

In **Year 2** the children used the Botham's website to find out information about Elizabeth Botham's life and used their findings to write and present a dramatization in our celebration assembly.

**Year 3** explored Victorian baking equipment and thought about what a hard life it would be to be a baker in Victorian times – the children had a lot of respect for how hard Elizabeth Botham had to work to support her family. They then visited the Enterprise Way bakery to see how the production compares today. Simon Digby gave the children a tour we're sure they will never forget!

Union Mill and its purpose in the community and to Elizabeth Botham in particular was the focus for learning in **Year 4**. The children compared maps from the time of the mill being fully operational to today to see how the use of the land and our town has changed. The children then used their DT skills to create a scale model of the mill.

Our older pupils in **Years 5 & 6** worked collaboratively to create a detailed family tree of the Botham family. The children used the national archive and ancestry website to locate the family on various censuses. By using the information that Jo Botham had shared with us, it was possible to find many of Elizabeth's family members, where they lived and the various occupations they had. Using these sources really brought the family to life for the pupils.

We ended our local history week with an assembly to share our learning with each other and our families. We even had tea and Botham's biscuits!