

THE BRAKE VAN

- There were no brakes on the wagons of freight trains, so the brake van was at the back and helped to control the speed of the train along with the brakes in the loco.
- The guard in the brake van would keep warm using the stove and would make his cups of tea on the top of the stove.
- Extra large luggage would be stored in the brake van and post would be sorted.

ACTIVITIES

Relax with a cup of tea heated up on the stove

Sort the post ready for delivery to the various villages in Bekonscot

Look at the posters showing flag signals and headcodes and discuss when they would be used



Thank you for visiting

We hope you enjoyed your visit to High Shrungham Junction

Bekonscot
Model Village & Railway

High Shrungham Junction

A Teacher's Guide



**Venture inside one of Bekonscot's railway stations and
discover how passengers travelled in the 1930s**

OUTSIDE

- Standing outside the station, note the size of the flowers and insects on the wall—what's happened?
- When walking round the village we were giants and now we are tiny!
- Discuss the idea of scale—we are now going to pretend to be one of the figures at Bekonscot and we are going inside one of the stations

ACTIVITIES

Maybe pretend to magically shrink the children using fairy dust or getting them to pretend to drink a shrinking potion.

THE WAITING ROOM

- All stations would have had waiting rooms, ladies would have had a separate one.
- In order to wave your loved ones goodbye on the train you had to purchase a platform ticket.
- Tickets were bought at the ticket office or on the train.

ACTIVITIES

Dress up as a passenger and a ticket officer
Tickets can be issued through the ticket office window
Stamp your Bekonscot tickets using the embosser

STATION MASTERS OFFICE

- The Station Master was in charge of everyone working at the station
- He would have been a well respected member of the community.
- Station Masters often ran sideline businesses from the station such as newspaper sales or coal delivery.
- They often lived at the station and relaxed listening to the radio in the evening

ACTIVITIES

Dress up as the Station Master and sit at the desk

Relax in the armchair with a newspaper, pipe and slippers

PLATFORM

- Steam trains were still a regular sight at stations in the 1930s but they were facing competition from diesel trains and the automobile
- Porters transported luggage on trolleys and the guards used flags to let the train driver know when it was safe to depart.
- Tickets could be bought on the train from the guard

ACTIVITIES

Dress up as a guard and use the flags or a porter and use the trolley to move the luggage
The guard can issue tickets from the mobile ticket machine