Shops in the past
Before supermarkets, most people visited the shops every day. They visited different shops to buy different things.
The greengrocer’s was filled with fresh produce, but you couldn’t buy the same fruits and vegetables all year round. Customers could buy strawberries in the summer but not in the winter! Today, supermarkets stock a wide variety of fruits and vegetables all year.
Foods such as butter, cheese and eggs were bought from the grocer’s. Customers would wait to be served by the grocer who stood behind the counter. In supermarkets today, customers choose the items they want to buy from the shelves.
Meat would be bought from the butcher’s. The butcher would cut the meat so that the customer could get the amount they needed. Many supermarkets today sell meat which has already been weighed and packaged.
Bread and cakes were bought from the bakery. They were baked fresh every day at the back of the shop. Most supermarkets today sell pre-packaged bread and cakes but some have a bakery counter similar to those found in shops in the past.
At the pharmacy, a pharmacist would mix ingredients together to make medicines. Today, many supermarkets have a pharmacy that sells bottled and packaged medicines that are kept behind a counter.
Sweets and chocolate could be bought from the sweet shop. The sweets would be kept in jars behind the counter. They would be weighed out using scales and put into bags. Sweets in supermarkets today usually come in bags or tubes, and customers help themselves.