

Some highlights from the school log book - originally typed by Mr N. Machin.

1928

The old school closed on August 24th and both the Headmistress, Miss West, and her assistant, Miss Coast, resigned.

The new building, known as Hoath Council School, was due to open on October 1st but classes did not begin until October 8th. There were 71 children aged five to fourteen on roll and the staff consisted of a Headteacher and two assistants. The first year of the schools' life must have been a difficult time. The log book states that there was very little equipment, a shortage of books and, 'no pencils in the school except a few old stubs'. During this year there were two different acting headteachers and eight assistants, some of whom stayed for only a few days.

1929

92 children in school

May Mrs Rye was appointed as permanent Infant teacher.

June Miss Dorothy Smiles was appointed as Headteacher.

October 23 Official opening of the school by F.M. Carson Esq., J.P.

December 5 The playground was flooded.
Flooding of the field and playground was a recurring problem for many years.

1930

103 children in school

February 19 The first mention of a visit from the Library Van for an exchange of books.

May 24 Empire Day celebrations. In the morning the children heard a talk about the Empire and performed recitations and songs. The afternoon was a holiday. Similar celebrations took place each year until 1957.

October Mrs Tillotson was appointed as teacher of the Juniors.

1931

February 27 Playground flooded.

Mrs Dagnell appointed as Infant teacher.

1933

- October Mrs Brown appointed as Junior teacher.
- October 31 Football goalposts installed. The boys were coached by Mr Lee and Mr Marlow of the Mill House.
- November 27 A curtain was hung in the large classroom to form a partition between classes 1 and 2 (Infants and Juniors).
- December 20 Christmas Concert.

1934

85 children in school

- June 9 The first school sports day. The trophy was won by Wellington House.
- October 9 The first children were admitted from the new houses in Marley Lane.

1935

80 children in school

- March 1 The first mention of a half-term holiday.
- May 29 Mr Draper-Hunt visited the school to see stock and furniture suitable for transfer to the new Sturry Central School.
- June 1 Sports Day. The winning house was Darling.
- July 1 Sturry Central School opened and the 26 senior pupils from Hoath were transferred there. 23 Juniors and 20 Infants remained.
Mrs Tillotson left and Mrs Brown took over the Infant class.
- September Mrs V.M. Emmott appointed as Headteacher.
- November 6 School was closed for the Royal Wedding.
- December 19 An Open Afternoon for parents, when they saw children's work and listened to an Entertainment.

1936

24 children in school

January 28 The school was closed for the funeral of King George V.

March 21 A Parents' Association meeting.

July 16 Sports Day with dancing and refreshments. Prizes were presented by Miss Carson.

November 25 A Parents' Association meeting at which a mount for the school bell was presented to the Managers by the District Education Secretary, Mr R.H. Stevens.

1937

35 children in school

February 20 Parents' Association Meeting. A lecture by Miss Davies on Physical Training. (There is no later mention of this Parents' Association.)

April 22 Mr Relph, the blacksmith came and reported that he had repaired the pipes. He did not think that it would be long before they needed repairing again.

June 8 Miss Emmott attended a reception by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Old Tree House.

June 9 Mrs Brown took the Infants to see sheep shearing at Rushbourne.

June 28 A representative of the Electricity Company came to enquire if we were having electricity laid on. (There is no record in the log book of when this work was carried out.)

December 21 The children received gifts from the Christmas Tree.

1938

44 children in school

March 9 The school pond was emptied and cleared.

July 14 The school had a half-holiday for sports and prize-giving.

1939

31 children in school

September 1 The school was opened for 'reception' purposes.

- October 2 The Hoath children returned to school.
- October 17 The children were sent home early in the afternoon when an air-raid siren and whistles were heard.
- December 4 The Rev. E.G.A. Gardener (Chairman of the Managers) wrote: 'I have examined the playing field on several occasions and have usually found it unusable through surface water. Today it is flooded. It should be land-drained, the ditches are insufficient. For half the year the field cannot be used.' This is the last mention of this problem so presumably the complaint produced results.
- December 14 Children gave a Christmas Concert for their parents and received gifts from the Christmas Tree.

1940

37 children in school

- March 15 Mr E. Wheldon, Head Warden of Hoath, came to examine gas-masks for repair and refitting.
- October 3 School reopened, postponed from 2nd September (on account of the Battle of Britain?). The school is open for both sessions to all children as numbers in each class will rarely exceed 15.
- December 10 Building of the Air Raid Shelter began.

1941

40 children in school

- February 25 All the children had their first diphtheria injection.
- April 2 An Open Afternoon with entertainment by the children and an exhibition of work.
- December 19 A Christmas Party was held at the school. (This seems to be the first one held on the school premises.)

1942

39 children in school. (No more numbers recorded until after 1948.)

- June 5 Mr Fuller cut the school field for hay.

1943

- May 18 Discussion began about the possibility of providing school dinners.

1944

January Alterations to the cloakroom in readiness for school meals began.

April 12 School dinners began. 30 children stayed.

1945

April 1 The name of the school became Hoath County Primary School, in accordance with the terms of the 1944 Education Act.

May 8 & 9 School closed for Victory in Europe holiday.

August 15 & 16 School closed for Victory in Japan holiday.

September Miss Cawdron appointed as Headteacher, Mrs Arnot as Infant teacher.

1946

June 8 Victory Sports were held on the school field.

September Mrs K Parker became Infants teacher.

December 17 The Christmas party included a Punch and Judy show.

1947

January Mrs Haltun became Infants teacher. Mrs Finch started work in the canteen.

February 17 Work started to convert the air raid shelter to a storeroom.

October 17 It was decided to form a Parents' Association.

November 20 School closed for the Royal Wedding, HRH Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

1948

33 children in school

April 28 Closed for the royal Silver Wedding.

July 30 An outing to Dymchurch and Dungeness.

October 26 A Whist Drive for school funds.

November 16 Mr Brewster (County Music Advisor) and Mrs Kitching gave a concert to the children.

1949

May 6 A parents' meeting, A talk about Margaret MacMillan.

June 16 The Juniors attended a music festival in Chapter House.

September 1 Miss Hammond took over the school for a year while Miss Cawdron went on a year's teaching exchange to Colorado, U.S.A.

October 26 Mr Baxter (PE Advisor) visited the school for the first time.

1950

35 children in school

April 5 Mrs Keen left after 5 years as caretaker. Mrs Foster appointed in her place.

July 18 Presentation of prizes won in the Road Safety Competition.

September 7 Miss Cawdron returned.

November 6 The telephone was installed.

1951

April Miss L. Smith appointed as Headteacher.

June 4 At a parents' meeting it was decided to take the children to Folkestone on June 19.

October 26 A whist drive for school funds raised £7.18.6d.

December 14 The children performed a nativity play.

1952

July 22 An outing to Broadstairs. The parents had arranged four whist drives to raise money for this.

October 7 A wireless was installed.

1953

- March 12 An oak tree given by Mr S. Harbour was planted in the school field to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
- May 13 First visit of Mr Bradbeer with the mobile dental clinic. Before this date the dentist used to inspect the children's teeth at school but treatment was given at Herne Bay.
- September 15 The climbing frame in the playground came into use.

1954

40 children in school

- January Miss M. Hodgson replaced Mrs Haltum as Infants teacher.
- July An outing to Broadstairs. The Juniors attended a music festival for primary schools at Simon Langton Girls School.
- September Miss Smith left to work in Sarawak as Education Officer. The new Headmistress was Mrs Swarbrick.
- November Dedication of the Margaret Cawdron memorial sundial and garden.

1955

- January-February Bad weather caused late opening or early closing of school on several days.
- April Mrs Thackray appointed as Infants teacher.
- July 5 Outing to Folkestone.
- July 11 A man came from the P.O. to put in a new instrument preparatory to going over to the dial system.
- October 7 The children brought in Harvest Festival gifts to school and took them to the church in the afternoon.
- December 19 Christmas Party. There was a Christmas tree.

1956

41 children in school.

- July 3 Sports and tea in place of planned outing to Folkestone.

December 18 Christmas party. There was an entertainer and the children received gifts of apples, sweets and balloons.

1957

29 children in school

January The last mentioning in the log book of the emptying of the cesspool. Was this when main drainage came?

May 24 Empire Day, which had been observed in school every year, was celebrated for the last time. The Empire was replaced by the Commonwealth.

1958

35 children in school

January Mrs Pritchard became Infants teacher.

July 8 Outing to Broadstairs.

September Mrs K. Parker became Headmistress, Mrs J Smith was appointed caretaker, Miss Murray appointed Infant teacher. She left in December to go to New Zealand.

December 3 Mr Carstairs came to tune the piano. He said that the 'action' was appalling and that no permanent improvement was possible.

1959

33 children in school

March 11 The Juniors visited Canterbury Cathedral.

March 19 An Open Evening for parents.

April 16 Mrs Gisby began work in the canteen.

June 15 A new piano was delivered.

July 2 The Juniors went to Calais for the day.

July 6 Miss Jenkins called to discuss the new method of heating water now that the old copper has broken.

December Mrs Parker resigned.

1960

25 children in school

January Mrs Thompson took over as acting head for one term and Mrs Holman took over as Infants teacher. Mrs Claringbould was appointed caretaker.

May Miss Verity became Headmistress. The first children from Woodview entered the school.

1961

27 children in school

February 21 & March 1 Visits were paid to Mr Fuller's farm to see the cows being milked.

June 20 Outing to Dover Castle

July 14 School broken into during the night 6/9d taken from Headmistress's desk drawer which was locked.

October Part of the school field and garden cut off for road widening.

1962

28 children in school

September Miss A Ottley became Headmistress. The first students from Christchurch College came on teaching practice.

1963

25 children in school

March 5 "The plumber came and mended a burst pipe in the toilets which are now thawed for the first time this term."

June The children went to a drama festival at Wincheap School.

September Mrs J Harbour appointed as Infant teacher.

November 18 A National Savings Group started at the school.

1964

29 children in school

January 31 A visit to the Marlowe Theatre to see a performance of *Aladdin*.

April 21 A team of four Juniors took part in a Road Safety Quiz at Littlebourne. These quizzes took place annually until 1874, but were dropped after Local Government reorganisation.

During the summer term several local schools came to Hoath to play rounders.

1965

37 children in school

- June 17 New tables and chairs for the Infants arrived.
- July 1 Infants from Hartlip School came to visit our Infants.
- November 18 A visit to Kingsman's Bakery.

1966

33 children in school

- January 21 The eight girls in the Junior class went to Sturry Secondary School to see a demonstration by dancers of the Royal Ballet.
- March 12 An extra high bar was fitted to the climbing frame.
- April 1 The Juniors went to a music festival at Hampton School.
- June 6 New desks and chairs for the Juniors arrived.

1967

33 children in school

- June 28 Major Devereux-Colebourn came and told the children about a Voyage Round the World from Australia to Great Britain.
- September The first children from Barn Close entered the school.
- October 27 A new portable radio was delivered.
- December 18 The Juniors went to a Carol Service in Canterbury Cathedral.

1968

43 children in school

- June 29 Some of the Juniors went to a Country Dancing festival in Canterbury.
- October 11 Harvest Festival in the church. Rev. G. Stephens took the service.
- October 31 P.C. Male gave a talk on Road Safety.

November 19 The dentist finished his treatment. A tractor was necessary to pull his dental caravan from the field.

1969

48 children in school

May 6 Work completed on the enclosing of the verandah (*first stage*).

June 17 The Infants went to see sheep shearing at Shelvingford.

1970

52 children in school

March 4 A blizzard. All of the children were sent home. Roads were blocked, power and telephones cut off. The school remained closed for two days.

April 15 Miss K.J. Webster became Headmistress.

June 13 A jumble sale for school funds raised £18.2.2d.

July 8 Sports Day. Thirteen children received AAA badges and certificates.

1971

44 children in school

January 21 An Open Evening for parents.

February 2 The school was broken into and the radio and melodica were stolen. They were recovered two weeks later by Ramsgate C.I.D.

February 17 Dinner money was collected in the new decimal currency.

April 2 Mrs Grisby left after 12 years' service in school meals. Her successor was Mrs P. Austen.

May 19 The Juniors went to London and visited the Planetarium and the zoo.

May 26 The children went to see the Roman remains at the archaeological dig at Shelvingford.

June 15 Mr Hearne came to start a Cycling Proficiency course for the older Juniors.

- September 24 At the Harvest Festival service we made a farewell presentation to the Vicar, Rev. G. Stephens.
- November 3 The children brought their guys to school for a parade and competition.
- December 9 Christmas Concert in the Village Hall.

1972

49 children in school

- January 19 The Juniors visited Kingsman's Bakery.
- February Very cold weather. Toilets frozen for days, power cuts due to miner's strike, low attendance because of 'flu epidemic.
- May 3 Mrs Owen joined the staff as a part-time teacher.
- May 17 The Juniors went to Greenwich.
- June 28 The Infants went to the Dymchurch Light Railway.
- July 20 Work began on the conversion to oil-fired central heating.
- September Mrs Gray began part-time teaching in the school.
- October 6 Harvest Festival service in the school. Afterwards the children took gifts to the elderly people in the village.
- November 20 Closed for the Queen's Silver Wedding.

1973

51 children in school

- February 22 Mr J.S. Harbour gave some Roman pottery to the school from a dig on his land.
- March 17 *Plant a tree in '73.* Eight trees were planted by village organisations on the school field.
- May 9 The Juniors went to the Tower of London.
- May 11 Music Festival at Herne School.
- May 21 Parent-Teacher Association formed.

- July 5 The Infants went to Maidstone.
- July 20 School v Parents Rounders Match.
- October 27 First PTA Hallowe'en Fair raised £83.41.
- November 14 School closed for Princess Anne's wedding.

1974

54 children in school

- January 10 Mrs Dons-Madson joined us in place of Mrs Gray.
- March 18 The older Juniors went to a children's concert given by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Margate.
- May 5 A visit to the lobster farm at Reculver.
- May 22 Music Festival at Briary School.
- June 4 The Juniors went to Maidstone and the Sittingbourne Light Railway.
- July 7 The Infants went to Dover Castle.
- December 13 Christmas Concert in the Village Hall: afternoon and evening performances.

1975

48 children in school

- January 14 The film projector bought by the PTA was delivered.
- March The Juniors were working on a project about people at work. They had visits from a policeman, an ambulance-man (Mr Austin) and were shown around Canterbury Fire Station.
- May 21 Music Festival at Hampton School.
- June 6 The Juniors went by train to London Zoo.
- June 19 The Infants went to the Dymchurch Light Railway.

During the summer term the Juniors worked on a project in connection with European Architectural Heritage Year. Their work won a Silver Award in a competition by the Kent County Council.

During the autumn term the boys received football coaching from Mr J. Hiskey and played matches against other schools.

1976

53 children in school

- February 24 All the children went to a dance-drama production at the Marlowe Theatre.
- March 18 The Juniors spent the day at the Broad Oak Field Study Centre.
- May 20 Music Festival at Herne School.
- May 26 Country Dance Party for Christian Aid.
- June 9 The Juniors went to Greenwich on a very hot day. This was the beginning of record-breaking heat and a drought.
- June 16 The Infants went to Howletts Zoo.
- July 14 The top Infants and 4th-year Juniors spent the afternoon at the Broad Oak Field Study Centre.
- July 19 A presentation was made to Mrs Dons-Madson who was retiring.
- September 16 The Juniors went to Broad Oak.
- November 12 Mrs Owen took the Juniors to Kingsmead School to visit the class with whom they had been corresponding. The Kingsmead children returned the visit the following week.
- December 8 Combined Schools' Carol Service at Herne.

1977

56 children in school

- February 2 The children went to the Polka Puppets at the Marlowe Theatre.
- May 18 A Sponsored Walk raised £90.46 for Christian Aid.
- May 25 Music Festival at Briary School.

- June 7 Jubilee Day. There was a village fete on the school field. Some of the children gave a display of country dancing.
- June 15 The Infants went to Dover Castle.
- June 22 The Juniors visited the castles at Rochester and Leeds.
- June 29 Sports Day. The sports cup given by the PTA was presented to the winning team (Beech) by Mrs Rowland.
- November 9 Some of the Juniors went to Canterbury to present £26 raised for the National Children's Home by a Sunny Smiles Collection.
- December 2 An American oak tree given by the school managers to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee was planted in the school field.
- December 6 School's Carol Festival at Herne.
- December 15 Father Christmas came to the children's party.

1975

58 children in school

- February Work on improving the children's toilets was completed.
- February 21 A visit to Dance in Action at the Marlowe Theatre.
- February 24 The boys made a presentation to Mr Hiskey who has coached them for football.
- March 9 The 3rd and 4th year Juniors and some of the mothers visited Canterbury Cathedral.
- April 13 The adventure playground equipment was used for the first time.
- April 19 Fifteen children passed the Cycling Proficiency Test.
- May 1 The first May Bank Holiday. It poured with rain all day.
- May 17 The Juniors went to the Horniman museum.

May 23

A tea afternoon for Christian Aid raised £15.50.