

Continuation of Extracts from the School Log 1921-1937

December 7th 1921 - Mr. Adderley the School Dentist visited the school and examined the teeth of all scholars of six years and over. 144 children were found to be needing dental treatment. The parents of 46 took advantage of the treatment.

February 28th 1922 - A day's holiday was granted in honour of Princess Mary's wedding.

May 24th 1923 - Empire Day was celebrated in the morning. The scholars sang patriotic songs, and saluted the flag and also listened to the King and Queen's message by means of a gramophone. The afternoon was a holiday.

Nov 17th 1927 - The scholars were allowed to run in the playground to see Sir Alan Cobham's machine flying over Reading on its way to Africa.

September 14th 1928 - The attendance is very unsatisfactory, several families are still on holiday, and many absent themselves on fine afternoons to go blackberrying.

December 12th 1929 - The scholars were sent home at 11 o'clock as the temperature of the class rooms was under 50 degrees because owing to the flooding of the engine room the furnace couldn't be lighted.

January 7th 1930 - School reopened, 7 new scholars admitted. 165 on roll and 159 present.

Grade A milk is supplied in separate bottles (1/3 of a pint in each bottle) to the scholars each day at one penny a bottle. An average of 84 children have the milk.

May 19th - 23rd 1930 - This is National Safety Week. The children in each class for each day repeat the formula before going home both morning and afternoon. "I must look Right, I must look Left before I cross the road." Lessons and games are taken during the week to emphasize the points taught.

6th Oct 1930 - The Mayor opened the new recreation ground in Westfield Road this afternoon. The scholars were taken by their teachers to see the ceremony which took place at 4.15p.m.

28th Oct 1930 - I (Annie M. Halstead) terminate my position as Head Teacher of this school today.

Nov 27th 1930 - I have been notified that on Tuesday next the scholars of Caversham St. John's Infants School are to be accommodated in this building - Miss Owens Head Teacher of St. John's Infants' School has been here today to consider the necessary re-organisation of the scholars. There will be 293 children on the two rolls, and they are to be divided into 6 classes of approx 50 each. One class is to be accommodated in the hall.

June 26th 1931 - The school is closed all day today for the School Outing by steamer to Park Place, Henley.

Mar 22nd 1933 - School was closed this afternoon for the School Boys' Charity Football match.

May 18th 1933 - I attended a lecture on 'The Use of the gramophone in Schools' at the University this morning.

June 30th 1933 - This department is closed all day for the Annual Journey. This year we are visiting the London Zoo - 104 children, with a number of parents participating.

May 1st 1934 - Ten boys from Sts. II & III went with the Nurse Girl to the King's Meadow baths this morning for their first swimming lesson. This is the first time boys have attended from school.

July 6th 1934 - A whole day's holiday has been granted today for our school journey. Just over 100 children and about 50 parents and teachers went by steamer to South Stoke, where games and competitions were enjoyed.

Oct 30th 1934 - 3636 bottles of milk have been delivered to this dept. since the cheaper milk has been supplied. An average of 165 per day. Milk has been supplied since Oct 1st at 1/2 d per 1/3 pint bottle.

May 9th 1935 - This department has been closed for three days in commemoration of H.M. the King's Silver Jubilee. Monday 6th was kept as a Bank Holiday. All juniors were on Tuesday entertained at the Central Cinema with a film showing the history of the reign - by invitation of the Manager. This was followed, in the afternoon, by a tea and entertainment, arranged by the Head Teacher and staff, for which the Education Comm; gave a grant of 8d per child. Messrs. Huntley & Palmer presented each child with a Jubilee tin of biscuits. The town Council made each Junior a gift of a book illustrating chief events in the reign.

6th Nov. 1935 - All schools are closed today to celebrate the wedding of H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester and Lady Alice Scott.

9.1.36 - A case of diphtheria has been reported in Standard IIIa. There is a case of scarlet fever in Class II.

28.1.36 - School was closed today for the funeral of H.M. King George. A short service, lasting half an hour, took place at 9 o'clock, after which the children were dismissed for the day.

11.5.37 - School closes this afternoon for three days for the Coronation celebrations for King George. Tomorrow 24 boys and girls are taking part in a physical training display in Prospect Park. On Thursday our school celebrations take place - a visit to Caversham Electric Theatre in the morning with an entertainer as extra turn. A tea party will be held in the afternoon. 60 juniors are seeing a Coronation film at the Central on Friday morning. 9d per head allowed for expenses. Week commencing May 17th Whitsun holiday.

22.12.37 - During December 2364 bottles of milk were delivered - including 62 given free. The daily average was 148.

I have this morning received the following letter from the Chief Education Officer.

"The Chairman of the School Management Sub-Committee has authorised the closure of your department as from noon tomorrow, 22nd inst. In order that you and your staff may have tomorrow afternoon and Thursday morning to make necessary arrangements for the transfer of your stock to the new school in Hemdean Road."

School closed at mid-day and all stock required was transferred by lorry to Hemdean Road. After the mid-day break the staff went to the new school to unpack but found that most of the furniture had not been delivered - so could only sort out and pack in various rooms.