

CAVERSHAM COUNCIL JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL

HEADMISTRESS: MRS E.M. WEBB

Extracts from School Log book

11.1.1938 - This is a newly built school to accommodate 490 children. The whole Junior & Infant department from Harley Road were brought here, together with the children over 7 years from St. John's School, Caversham. There were 410 children on roll at the end of the first week. There are 2 Infant classes and 7 standards. The nursery room is empty at present – nine class rooms being occupied.

I am directed to inform you that the above-named School has been recognised as a Public Elementary School as from 11th January 1938. The school number will be 27 and I am to request that this number, together with the name of the Local Education Authority, may be quoted in all communications to the Board relating to the School.

19.1.38 - The price for dinners has been reduced – new price to 7 years 3d. per meal or 1/- per week. Over 7 years – 4d. per meal or 1/6d. per wk.

11.2.38 - This school was officially opened this afternoon by his worship the Mayor. Others present at the ceremony included the Mayoress, the chairman of the Educ. Comm. –The Town Clerk and other dignitaries.

May 14 1940 - School re-opened this morning – as an emergency measure owing to the international situation – teachers were recalled.

May 24 1940 - Empire Day. South Lambeth Road & Barnes Schools joined with us in celebrating Empire Day – with songs etc. A half holiday was given. Nine air raid shelters are now complete. They are built of concrete on a site below the allotments – parallel with the playground. Each is equipped with 4 candle lanterns and seating for Infants.

11.9.40 - School closed at mid-day today so the building might be used as a billeting centre during the evacuation of Canterbury etc.

24.9.40 - School re-opened. During the time school was closed evacuees were housed and fed in the building. The staff were on duty in relays during the whole period – night & day and during the weekends.

Feb 27th 1941 - The “Alert” sounded at 1.50 this afternoon. Children went to the trenches and “ All Clear” sounded at 2.20.

Mar 12th 1941 - There has been little heat in the building this week and this morning none at all. The children have been dispersed while the boiler is being overhauled. Members of the staff who have not volunteered for night fire watching are on duty all day.

FIRE WATCHING These premises are to be watched every night by voluntary watchers. The staff were asked to volunteer, together with the evacuated staff. The following members are on duty in turn – 3 each night from “black out” to morning :- Head Teacher, Mrs Howells, Mrs Cooke, Mr Renshawe, Miss Babbage, MJiss Allaway, Miss Vince. Miss Hume & Miss Wheeler relieve others on one evening per week until 9.30.

20.12.1941 - Street Fire watchers and the school combined to give a concert for funds for fire appliances and school funds – our share - £6 5s. 0d.

11.2.1943 - During an air raid on the town yesterday afternoon an enemy plane machine gunned this school – the following damage being caused:-

Inside school

Hall – bullet hole in ceiling.

Room 4 – damaged brickwork.

Room 2 – damaged brickwork, 10 bullet holes in top windows, window sill and bottom window and frame damaged. Radiator broken, 2 bullet holes in ceiling, numerous bullet holes in black out.

Boys Lav: overhead window broken.

Inf. Corridor – small hole in window.

Outside School

2 holes in bricks in Junior wing.

2 small holes in playground.

5 holes in roof of hall – and broken coping.

Broken window of loft over hall.

Broken roof in Junior wing.

Broken tile on meal hall roof.

Damage to pillar at entry.

Caretaker's House – holes in roof. Damage to plaster in 2 bedrooms, Bullet hole in window.

All teachers and children were out of the building and no-one was hurt.

6.12.1943 - A party of Americans visited the school this morning and gave the children from top 7 rooms a most interesting talk on American Customs and life. There are several cases of chicken pox in the school.

13.1.1944 - All official evacuees (39) were given a party with tea today and were taken to the Pantomime on Tuesday. 2/- per head was allotted by the Lord Mayor's Fund and the American +. Sweets and toys were sent from America.

17.3.1944 - Surg. Comm: Wynknck of Norway came to talk to the upper Juniors of life in occupied Norway.

23 & 24 . 3. 1944 - 46 + 1 children attended E.P. Collier School each morning for the final Scholarship Examination.

24.5.1944 - A short service was held for the older scholars. All children took part in a march past the flag etc. There was a half holiday in afternoon.

5.6.1944 - This is "Salute the Soldier" Week. Our saving have amounted to £201. 10s. 2d.

8 & 9.5.1945 - School has been closed for two days to celebrate peace in Europe.

20.11.1947 - Schools closed for the day in honour of Princess Elizabeth's marriage.

25.11.1947 - A native from Barbados spoke to the Upper Juniors of life in his country, some most intelligent questions were asked by the children.

26.4.1948 - School closed this afternoon in honour of the Royal Silver Wedding. This week is "Reading Education Week."

6.5.1948 - School closed all day – Ascension Day.

17.6.1948 - Room 1 (39 children) visited Job's Farm and bottling depot at Didcot by kind permission of Messrs. Job. They were accompanied by the HT and 2 of staff (including student from Cooper's Hill).

24.6.1948 - 40 children from 4b visited Job's Farm with two Teachers. Caversham Library has opened as Junior Room. Head Teacher took a boy and girl from Room 1 to the opening ceremony.

6.9.1948 - The new building at The Grove was opened this morning. All children attending St. Barnabas have been transferred and divided into 3 classes.

From today no child will be admitted who lives below George St. Caversham – the village being zoned and children living in Lower Caversham must go to St. Johns'. – an additional building has been opened.

23.2.1949 - Today we opened the new dining room & kitchen. There was 2 sittings – Infants & Juniors – about 230 altogether.

4.9.1950 - Owing to the opening of The Hill School in Peppard Road our numbers have considerably depreciated – St John's School, Caversham, is now an Infants' School. A number of our children & St. John's have been transferred to The Hill – the remaining Juniors have been admitted to this School.

22.10.1951 - Moray House Intelligence Test 44, Nat. Foundation of Education Research's Verbal, Arithmetic and English Tests are being given during this week to all children who will be 11 years old by Sept. 1st next.

14.1.1952 - Mrs Coker took her class to the museum to see a reproduction of the Bayeux Tapestry.

6.5.1952 - H.M. The King died in his sleep.

15.2.1952 - The King's Funeral. The School heard the wireless service and observed the silence at 2 O'Clock.

15.12.1952 - A Christmas tree has been put in the Hall for children to bring gifts for sick children in hospital.

1.6.1953 - School re-opened. Special talks on tomorrow – Coronation Day – have been given. Children have made flags etc. with which the building is now decorated. Each child has been given a souvenir spoon by the Education Committee. The school closes this afternoon until Thursday.

8.6.1953 - After afternoon school a party of parents, staff and children (12 coaches) went to London to view the Coronation decorations.

16.6.1953 - 370 juniors were taken to the Regal Cinema to see "A Queen is Crowned."

24.11.1953 - 95 children and teachers went to the Central Cinema to see 'The Conquest of Everest'.

4.5.1954 – A woman called saying she wished to admit nieces. Mrs Emmons left her in Head teacher's room to call me. While she was out of the room (a very short time) the woman stole £18 from her desk and about £4 from my wallet. The police were notified and the woman caught later.