

Cottingham Infant School Journal, Extracts (1871-1901)

1871

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|-------------------------|---|
| June 5th
Monday | Opened this new school today; 97 present. Found the majority of the children very disorderly, apparently unused to any control. Spent the greater part of the morning in classifying, and some attempt at discipline. Assisted by Mrs. Vickers, formerly mistress of a dame's school in the village. Children admitted from 3 to 7 years of age. School fees, from three to five 1d; from five to seven 2d. |
| June 7th
Wednesday | Number increased to 106. Continued efforts to improve the discipline with some little success. Commenced the school song, "Oh we're all weaving". |
| Sept. 11th | Re-opened school after the vacation. Very slender attendance, chiefly owing to the harvest not being finished and the elder children being out gleaning. Find the children not quite so orderly after a holiday. Rather better attendance in the afternoon. |
| Tuesday 7th
November | Kept in 3 Cottingham boys for annoying the Middleton children on their way home from school. Shall repeat the punishment all the week. Usual routine. |

`1872

Monday 15 Jan

Rev. W. Yates visited school in company with some men to measure the school, and to decide about an enlargement.

Wednesday

April 24

Several children absent in afternoon because of a bear being in neighbourhood. Average for week 91.8.

Nov. 25 - 29

School visited by Rev. W. Yates on Monday afternoon. One child re-admitted to the school. Eighteen children away with measles on Thursday and more on Friday. Rev. W. Yates visited school again on Friday morning.

Dec. 2 - 6

Attendance still very small owing to same cause as preceding week. School obliged to be closed on account of measles.

`1873

~~Twox~~ 24 - 28

Two children who had been absent some weeks returned to school. Mary Ann Webster absent on Thursday. Two children still absent from school on account of blister pox. One other returned to school.

Dec. 1 - 5

Two little girls who had had ringworms for some time returned to school. School visited by Rev. W. Yates on Wednesday morning. Some children absent from school on Wednesday morning in order to see a steam plough which was going through the village.

`1874

April 20th

Attendance not quite so good as preceding week, owing to several of the boys being setting potatoes, and some of the bigger ones scaring birds. Rev. W. Yates visited school on Wednesday morning.

April 27th

Attendance better this week, but several absent on Friday morning, being May the first, and the girls went round the village with garlands.

`1875

May 3 to 8

Made 3 new entries on Monday morning and crossed one name off the register, a boy having been murdered on the previous Saturday. An inquest being held on Tuesday afternoon and also a sale in the village, very small attendance. P.T.

Nov. 29 to
Dec. 4

4 children absent from school through blister pox. Policeman brought George White to school on Monday afternoon having found him playing truant. Made one new entry on Wednesday morning. Average for week 67.

`1876

May 22 to 27th

Short attendance on Monday morning being Rogation Monday, and several children kept at home to go out with the men who went round boundaries of parish. School visited by Hon. Mrs. Perry and Rev. W. Yates in morning.

- Sept. 24th to 30th Attendance rather better this week, harvest being nearly finished. School visited on Tuesday morning by Rev. W. Yates and Miss Nance. Several children absent owing to a fair in neighbourhood. Made two new entries on Tuesday afternoon. Holiday on Friday to have stove put in order.
- Sep. 29th to Oct. 3rd Sent two children home on Monday morning, because they had blister pox. Attendance very thin on Wednesday, in consequence of the stormy weather. Miss Bradshaw not present for Scripture lesson. Moved Emily Lickerish into the second class on Thursday morning.
- Oct. 6 to 10 Miss Bradshaw was away from school on Monday morning. Rev. W. Yates came to school on Tuesday afternoon to enter the Government report. The attendance has been rather thin in consequence of a number of the elder children being in the harvest field.
- Oct. 27 to 31 Several children in the first class have returned to school this week. Closed school rather earlier than usual on Wednesday morning to allow the children to see a regiment of soldiers, which was passing through the village. Have continued to take the second group for Scripture in two divisions.
- Nov. 3 to 7 Unable to open school on Wednesday morning, because the masons were putting the stove up in the school. Rev. W. Yates visited the school on Friday morning, Miss Bradshaw absent from Scripture lesson the same day. Took the first group for Scripture myself. The attendance has improved.

'1880

June 7 to 11 Closed school on Wednesday, because of the re-opening of the church after restoration. The attendance has been very poor, many of the children being absent the whole week. Punished H. and A. Tansley and Alice Crane on Thursday afternoon for playing on their way to school.

Aug. 30th to
Sep. 17th 1880

Harvest Holidays

Nov. 15 to 19 Did not open school on Monday afternoon, on account of the funeral of Mr. Burgess. Closed school rather earlier on Wednesday afternoon, the masons wanting to come into the school to attend to the stove. Miss Bradshaw absent on Thursday, took the whole of the children for singing hymns. Attendance about as usual.

'1881

Feb. 7 to 11 Could not open school on Monday afternoon, such a heavy snow-storm at the time for opening school that only two children were present. Not any improvement has been made in the attendance in consequence of the changeable weather.

Feb. 14 to 18 A holiday was given the whole day on Thursday, on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Nance, a tea treat being given to the children in the afternoon. The attendance has been about as usual.

- May 2 to 6 Short attendance on Monday, being May-day, many of the children were garlanding. Took the third class for reading and number on Tuesday morning, and examined the second class on Friday in writing and reading.
- '1882
- Sep. 12 to 16 Opened school on Monday morning. Very few children were present. Scarletina, blister pox, and measles being amongst the children. Average attendance for the week is 35.
- Oct. 9 to 13 Attendance not so good as in the previous week. Miss Bradshaw not at school on Thursday morning. Took all the children for singing during Scripture Lesson. Closed school on Friday morning, by order of the medical officer, in consequence of the increased spread of the measles.
- Oct. 13th to School closed on account of measles.
- Apr. 2 - 6 Re-opened school on Monday. Admitted one child. Many of the elder children have attended very irregularly, staying away from school to gather colt's foot flowers. Miss Bradshaw not at school on Thursday, took the first class children for reading.
- Aug. 6 to 10 Feast Week

`1884

June 23 to 27

Received on Monday four dozen of slates and six boxes of slate pencils. Several children have been absent during the week, visiting the neighbouring feasts. Short attendance on Thursday morning and only 41 present on Friday morning, the remaining children were away to see a number of soldiers passing by the village. Rev. Atwood visited the school on Friday morning.

Nov. 3 to 7

The attendance is not so good as usual. Five children are suffering with blister pox, two others have been scalded.

`1885

Mar. 16 to 20

Two fresh entries have been made this week. Rev. W. Yates visited the school on Monday afternoon, and again on Wednesday morning when he took the first group for Scripture. The attendance was short on Thursday afternoon, many of the children going to see the policeman's funeral.

July 13 to 17

The attendance has been very poor. Some children are sick, others are in the hay fields. Admitted one child on Monday. Holiday given on Thursday afternoon for Rockingham Flower Show.

1888

- Feb. 10th Have taught second class with first for object lesson. P.T. had time for private study. Commenced to teach a song "Three mice went in to a hole to spin". Average 68.2.
- Feb. 13th Admitted 2 children.
- Feb. 14th Very severe snow storm during the morning, the children were unable to attend school.
- March 29th Broke up for Easter Holiday, 1 week. L. Aldwinckle, E. Jones, H. Carter, C. Coles, J. Green, J. Bottrill, J. Carter and G. Kemshead received a prize for regularity. Average for the week 45.3.
- May 1st Being May Day a number of girls are absent, carrying garlands down the village.
- Nov. 16th There are 13 children absent not being well. Two children are suffering with scarlet fever. The rest of the family will not be allowed to attend school till all fear of infection is over.
- Nov. 19th W. White and A. White sent home, fever in house.
- Nov. 20th Arthur Bradshaw and Ed. Palmer have been very poorly, the Doctor is afraid it is the fever.

- Nov. 22nd J. & A. Aldwinckle sent home, the baby has the fever. Many children are absent, their parents being afraid to send them to school. Every precaution is taken for prevention, viz., using carbolic and other fluids about the room and offices.
- Nov. 30th There are no fresh cases of fever at present. Aldwinckles have returned, the Doctor reporting the baby's illness not fever. The attendance was rather better at the beginning of the week, but has decreased on Thursday and Friday, heavy rains coming just before school-time. Average 65.3.
- Dec. 3rd More cases of fever. A great number of children kept away from school in consequence.
- Dec. 4 - 7 So many absent being sick besides those with fever, the 1st and 2nd classes have been taught together by Mistress.
- Dec. 7th Dr. Dryland, Rural Sanitary Medical Officer (Kettering), visited with regard to the outbreak of fever in this place. He gave orders that the school was to be closed until Jan. 1st 1889.

'1890

- Aug. 1st Average 56.8. Broke up for Feast Week (1 week).

Collective Lessons for 1890-91
Classes I, II and III

Natural History	Sheep, Horse, Camel, Elephant, Rabbit, Honey-bee, Goat, Cow, Dog, Pig.
Objects	Coal, Salt, Leather, Cotton, Cork, Wool, Wheat, Tea, Oak Tree, Bread.
Trades	The Carpenter, Blacksmith and the Baker.
Conversational	Parts of the body, Rain, Wind, Sun, Seasons, Washing and a Railway.

June 24 '90.

A. Cartwright.

Oct. 4th The attendance this week has been very poor. Fever has broken out in the village, and gleaning not quite finished. P.T. and Monitress had time for private study on Monday afternoon, classes grouped together for object lesson. Average for the week 42.7.

1891

Jan. 16th to School closed for one month by order of Sanitary Authority.
Feb. 16th 1891

Feb. 20th A great many children still absent, through measles, others owing to weakness from recent illness and parents afraid to send them because of severe weather. Mistress has taken

May 22nd Holiday on Monday (Whitsun). There has been a poor attendance all the week. The children of the first and second classes have been taught together. On Friday the first class took sewing with wool, and the boys mat weaving instead of the ordinary sewing.

July 10th Rev. W. Yates visited, the first and second classes taught together. The boys took mat weaving for Kindergarten this week, the girls pricking. Mistress gave a lesson on colour, P.T. and monitress listened.

Oct. 5th Re-opened. A great many children absent, sent after them. Mothers say they are required to glean. No fees paid today. P.T. and Monitress had private study from 3 - 4 in the afternoon and on Wed. from 3 - 3.30. P.T. gave a lesson on Friday, Mistress listening. Average = 44.1.

'1893

July 6th Holiday given. The Royal Wedding.

July 7th Number of children still absent with whooping cough. Those who are at school seem very weak.

Dec. 15th E. Vickers still absent. The average for the week being 41.4. Influenza still very bad everywhere in the village. Have taken the few babies with the second class.

'1894

April 2nd I, Annie Beecroft (C.M.) took charge of this school. Found more than half the children in the habit of coming late, the excuse being that many of the children come a distance, and there is no school bell to remind them of the time. They appear to stop gathering flowers.

June 12th Consecration of Church Yard. Holiday in the afternoon.

June 26th Several children absent taking dinner to hay fields.

July 23rd Scarletina broken out in Claypole family. Warned the children about mixing with them. P.T. gave a lesson on "Tea". Mistress gave a lesson on the "Duck" to Babies.

'1895

Jan. 9th No fire in the stove either yesterday morning or today. Consequently all children had to be taken to the bottom end of the room and Time Table could not be adhered to, as there is not room for 2 classes to take arithmetic. Very cold morning, and children shivering - sent a note to Mrs. Vickers the school cleaner. Registers marked

Feb. 15th Av. for week 31. Attendance Officer called and promised to call on several who might be at school. Children had Kindergarten Game this afternoon, also drill with musical bells.

- March 25th Attendance not quite so good today owing to many children gathering sticks after the terrific gale yesterday. Admitted 2 new children. Gave a lesson to 1st and 2nd classes on "A Storm".
- Oct. 11th Many children have been away this week suffering from sores on their heads and faces. The Attendance Officer called, but there were no special cases to report. The av. is lower being 47. 1st class are improving in their reading and writing but arithmetic is very weak.
- Nov. 7 - 8th Miss Chambers took charge these days. The school is to be closed for a fortnight owing to Mrs. Beecroft's child having measles.
- Nov. 29th The average this week is 38. Chicken-pox is still prevalent. The school to be closed again for one month.

Report of H.M. Inspector

The room is very inconvenient and unsuitable for its purpose and no time should be lost in making better provision for these infants.

`1896

Feb. 3rd I (Sarah A. Coley) commenced duties in this school today.
Admitted one child.

July 20th Drafted 9 boys, and 6 girls to the Hill School this morning.

July 31st Commenced work in the new schoolroom on Wednesday morning.
Average attendance for the week 47.

`1897

June 24th School closed from Monday morning to Thursday morning
for the Jubilee rejoicings.

July 22nd School closed Thursday afternoon and Friday for
Rockingham Flower Show and the School Treat. Average
attendance for the week 55. Admitted two children.

Aug. 11 - 1897 Report of Education Department.

"Infants School.

The infants are now taught in excellent new premises, but neither the discipline nor the children's attainments are equal to what they were a year ago. Better methods of instruction, especially in Reading might be adopted, and special efforts should be made to secure greater attention. The highest grant is recommended not without hesitation, and considerable improvement will be expected next year. An urinal is required in the boys offices. The registers have only been checked in two quarters."

`1898

- Sept. 26th I, Annie Beecroft (C.M.) having previously resigned on account of ill health, again take charge of this school, on the resignation of the late Mistress.
- Oct. 19th Very wet, only 22 present. P.T. had private study.
A piano has recently been purchased for use in school - the children appear to enjoy the singing and marching much better than before.
- Nov. 29th Art. 84 b i (1)
- The approaches and playground are in the same unsatisfactory state. An accident which happened this afternoon to the Head Teacher's little boy on entering the playground is suggestive.

I. Gill.

`1899

- Nov. 7th Half holiday in consequence of so many children visiting Barnum's Show in Kettering.

`1900

- March 2nd Half Holiday instead of yesterday in honour of the "Relief of Ladysmith".
- May 21st Half Holiday in honour of "Relief of Mafeking".

- July 13th We have had several very hot days this week. Temp. of school 80 deg. Work with difficulty. The attendance is not as good as it might be - so many children taking meals to hayfields.
- July 16th School closed this afternoon, owing to the sudden death of Rev. Canon Yates.
- July 19th The school will be closed this afternoon owing to the funeral of Canon Yates. Teachers and children will attend. A terrible blow to the Teachers and all Parishoners to lose our beloved Rector.
- July 27th Compelled to send [REDACTED] home to be made cleaner. The smell from him has made the Teacher quite ill - intend to send his mother a note.
- '1901
- Feb. 24th Sunday - After school yesterday 4 or 5 boys got into school and ransacked all the cupboards, taking away many little things and destroying several Kindergarten things - altogether doing about 5/- damage. The Policeman has the matter in hand.
- March 14th Very cold morning, and no fire in the stove. The children had to be packed in class room, and of course the usual work much interfered with. P.T. having to light fire.