

COUNCIL SCHOOL LOG BOOK – EXTRACTS WW2 (1939 – 1945)

3rd September 1939

Great Britain declared war on Germany

18th September 1939

School re-opened. Admissions 34 include a number who have been sent from dangerous areas to stay with relatives or friends in the Thornbury district.

7th November 1939

With the approval of the Education Committee, and in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Board of Education's Pamphlet – "The Schools in War Time. Memorandum No 1", it has been decided that the senior scholars shall cultivate land additional to the school garden. For this purpose the Rural District Council have placed at the Headteacher's disposal one and a quarter acres of land (formerly forming part of the school playing field) recently acquired by them from the County Council for building purposes. Three quarters of an acre of this land has been ploughed today. The other half an acre is occupied by disused farm sheds and an adjoining orchard. The boys have adapted one shed to house fowls. Twelve pullets have been purchased and put in possession.

10th November 1939

The Opening Service was appropriately modified to serve as a Commemoration of Armistice. Poppies were sold to the children.

An air raid warning "YELLOW" was conveyed to the Headmaster by Mr SWG Dennis at 11.15. The warning "WHITE" (all clear) was received at 11.50.

Mr Vowels, of the County Architect's Department, measured the windows, and left a quantity of material from which the teachers are asked to make Blackout curtains in connection with Evening Institute purposes.

Pediculosis: Nurse Kent conducted the usual inspection. Six children have been excluded.

20th November 1939

Revised times of assembly and dismissal adopted for the Winter months as from today are
Morning: 9am till 12 noon

Afternoon: 1.15pm till 3.30pm (Infants start at 1.30)

29th November 1939

Evening Classes re-started this week, with an enrolment of 83. Messrs Hawkins have fixed curtain rails, and under Miss Tonkin the staff and children have made "blackout" curtains. ARP trenches commenced in September are now nearing completion, though there is extensive flooding in the trenches, and it appears that some effective means of drainage will have to be devised.

20th & 21st December 1939

Children's parties held.

9th January 1940

A letter has been received from Mr Mitchell this morning. In it he informed the Headteacher that he would not be returning to school as he had been offered –and had accepted- a post of some importance as 4th Engineer aboard a merchant ship.

19th January 1940

Very severe weather has caused a considerable drop in attendance.

26th January 1940

Bad weather and poor attendance have continued.

29th January 1940

Extremely bad travelling conditions prevail.
Mr Jones County Supply Teacher is in attendance.

2nd February 1940

Severe weather and bad travelling conditions continue to prevail. Measles and German Measles are prevalent. Attendance for the week 50.3%

12th February 1940

Miss Face is absent, suffering from German Measles.

26th February 1940

Revised times of assembly and dismissal
Morning 9 – 12
Afternoon 1.30 – 4 (Infants 2 – 4)

29th February 1940

Miss Tonkin absent, suffering from German Measles.

1st March 1940

Mr Smith absent having gone to Bristol to undergo medical examination in connection with his impending military service.

14th March 1940

Miss Davies and Mr Jones absent. Miss Davies unwell. In the case of Mr Jones it is though possible that since he cycles daily from Gloucester, this morning's driving snowstorm may have caused his absence.

31st March 1940

School closed this afternoon for the Easter Holiday –3 days.

3rd May 1940

The first of a series of Wartime Cookery Demonstrations was held in the Domestic Science Centre today. 53 adults attended.

10th May 1940

School closed at midday for the Whitsun Holiday, which will last until May 27th

14th May 1940

In accordance with instructions received over the Wireless, school re-opened this morning.

3rd June 1940

Mr Norman Ashcroft commenced duty as a Certificated Assistant Master.

4th June 1940

Mr Tomkins HMI called to inform the Headmaster of the arrangements made for the education of the official "Evacuees" now billeted in the town. These children and their teachers are to be given accommodation in the C of E School.

7th June 1940

Three boys have been proved guilty of stealing cigarettes from the premises of Mrs A Lewis. Each boy has been punished with four strokes of the cane.

1st July 1940

22 official "Evacuees" billeted at the RDC Hostel have been admitted. A Harwich teacher, Mrs Grey, has been allocated to the school as an addition to the staff.

15th July 1940

Air Raid Warning

Children in shelters from 10.15 am till 10.55 am

Ditto -1.50 till 2.35 pm

18th July 1940

Air Raid Warning 11.25am – 12.10

19th July 1940

Air Raid Warning 3.25pm – 5.35pm

23rd July 1940

Air Raid Warning 12.15 pm – 12.40pm

24th July 1940

Air Raid Warning 3.10 – 3.55pm

1st August 1940

School closed this afternoon for a Midsummer Holiday expected to last a fortnight. Mrs Grey is also leaving today for domestic reasons.

19th August 1940

School re-opened. A new fireplace has been provided in the Infants Staff room; a new stove for Standard VI. Miss G Freeman commences duty today. Miss Faulks is absent suffering from Measles and Mumps.

21st August 1940

Air Raid Warning 2.30 – 3.50pm

26th August 1940

Air Raid Warning 3.50 – 4.30pm

27th August 1940

Air Raid Warning 1.15 – 2pm

28th August 1940

Air Raid Warning 2.10 – 2.25pm

3rd September 1940

Air Raid Warning 2.40 – 3.55pm

4th September 1940

Air Raid Warning 10 – 10.50am and 1 – 2.10 pm

5th September 1940

Air Raid Warning 9.45 – 10.05 am

For many weeks there have been nightly Air Raids, accompanied by intense Anti-aircraft fire. The average duration of the Warning Period is six hours, and the children's rest is being considerably disturbed.

13th September 1940

School closed for a second period of a fortnight, as part of the Midsummer Holiday.

30th September 1940

Revised times of assembly and dismissal

10am – 12.15pm

1.30 – 4pm

Miss Face leaves today (to be married) and Harwich teacher Miss Kenny starts today.

3rd October 1940 and 6 subsequent days

Dental Inspection

25th November 1940

Revised times

9.30am – 12.30

1.45 – 4.15pm

28th November 1940

Mr Morley (Assistant Secretary from the Education Office) called to consult the Headmaster about the formation of a "Youth Service Squad".

6th December 1940

A return completed today shows that seven and a half hours of school time have been lost during the past fortnight as a result of Air Raid Warnings. Measles is prevalent. 215 present out of 332.

9th December 1940

Nine child "Refugees" from Bristol admitted this morning.

13th December 1940

Miss Kenny (Harwich Teacher) has received instructions from the Education Committee to take charge of a Harwich Infants' School at Falfield as from Monday next.

20th December 1940

School closed for Xmas holiday

4th January 1941

Four rooms in the main building, as well as the Domestic Science Centre, have been used as Canteen and sleeping accommodation by a party of one hundred Firemen who have been "standing by" for service in Bristol.

7th January 1941

School re-opened

20th January 1941

The Handicraft Centre has been used as a canteen for Auxiliary Fire Services which were "standing by" in readiness for a call to Bristol or Avonmouth. 3 nights.

23rd January 1941

Mr Riddiford, who conveys Rockhampton to school, reports that he was involved in an accident this morning, when two vehicles skidded into his stationary bus. A number of children were in the bus, but none sustained injury.

1st February 1941

To ease the situation arising out of a large number of official and unofficial Evacuee children, the Education Committee have agreed to take over for school use – as from today – the schoolroom attached to the Baptist Chapel. For the time being, Standard II, under Miss Barker, are being accommodated there.

30th March 1941

"Fire Convoy" used Handicraft Centre

11th & 12th April 1941

Domestic Science Centre used by Fire Convoy during Easter holiday.

9th June 1941

June 7 – 14th is fixed as Thornbury's War Weapons Week. Our scholars contributed in Savings today, £88 15s 3d

14th June 1941

Total for War Savings for the week contributed through the School Association: £2124 0s 9d

8th July 1941

Mr WR Watkins, Secretary for Education, came to the school this evening for the purpose of meeting some of the Youth Squad members and seeing branches of their work.

26th July 1941

Miss Hawkes married today. Her new name: Mrs Sims. She has been granted one day as leave of absence.

28th July 1941

Mr Ashcroft has received notice to report for Naval Service on Wednesday August 6th.

2nd September 1941

The Harwich Esplanade Infants' School, previously accommodated at the C of E School, has – at the request of the Education Committee – been merged with the Thornbury Council School. Thus 38 children, and 2 teachers (Miss N Chapman and Miss B McKearney) have been received today.

Number on books now 404.

25th September 1941

Mr Harding has been appointed to fill vacancy due to the “calling up” of Mr Ashcroft.

14th October 1941

More air raid shelters asked for.

March 1942

The Managers have granted a day's holiday, in recognition of the school's achievement in raising £3,200 during the recent “Warship Week”.

13th April 1942

Two new ARP Shelters of the concrete “tube” type have been completed.

17th April 1942

Mr Harding terminated his appointment, as he is required to report for military service on the 27th. He leaves Thornbury today.

18th April 1942

The Headteacher visited Gloucester and discussed with Mr Luckley certain considerations arising from the decision to erect on school premises a school canteen.

21st April 1942

Mr Williams, a Harwich teacher, at present evacuated to Stone, is doing temporary service here.

1st May 1942

Foundations are being prepared in connection with the erection on school property of a hut which is to be used as a Feeding Centre to supply meals to this and other local schools. To meet an urgent request, Mr Williams has been given temporary release in order that he may take charge of the evacuated Harwich School at Oldbury on Severn.

25th September 1942

£5 16s 6d received in respect of the sale of Needlework and £1 18s 0d in respect of Fuel Gas used by the Mothers' Union Preserving Centre.

26th October 1942

Extra clothing coupons issued to children entitled to them.

6th November 1942

Mr Luckley and Miss Wagborne called to consult about the staffing of the new canteen.

4th March 1943

A telephone, with an extension to the new canteen, has been installed.

10th March 1943

Dr Hignell attended and gave injections to 29 children whose parents wished them to be immunised against diphtheria.

15th March 1943

Miss Joan Hook commenced duty as Domestic Science Teacher in place of Miss Wackett who is to take over responsibility for the new canteen.

22nd March 1943

Miss Wackett as Cook –Supervisor

Mrs B Screen and Mrs V Vizard as Cooks

Mrs Ginn, as assistant Cook, commenced duty in the new canteen today. Meals will be provided as from Monday next.

26th March 1943

ARP. The children were taken through the Mobile Gas Chamber today.

29th March 1943

The first meals were provided today.

5th April 1943

Mrs Hill and Mrs Pengelly have been appointed to give assistance in the Canteen daily from 12.30pm till 3.30pm.

3rd May 1943

Captain Rogers HMI of Physical Training called and saw the seniors drill.

May 1 – 8th 1943 “Wings for Victory” Week: School’s savings £1122 13s 7d

12th May 1943

Capt Bennett came to take particulars of the proposed new entrance to the school premises, and also inspected the arrangements at the school canteen.

13th May 1943

Mrs Sims has been granted temporary leave of absence on account of the homecoming of her husband, who is in the RAF.

16th May 1943

90 members of the "Youth Club" attended the special afternoon service at the Parish Church on the occasion of "Empire Youth Sunday".

21st June 1943

Two gas stoves have been installed in the school canteen.

20th September 1943

As from today, school meals from the canteen are being supplied to the Thornbury C of E School and to Olveston & Elberton Senior School; 35 to the former and 67 to the latter.

New appointments to the canteen staff:

Mrs Ginn promoted to Cook

Mrs Pengelly promoted to Cook

Mrs E Dyer to be Assistant Cook

Miss K Riddiford Assistant Cook

Mrs Harris Washer-up.

The Girls & Infants Yard has been tar-paved with "Resinant"; also the path near to the ARP shelters in the field, and the path from the canteen to the road.

4th October 1943

As from today school meals are being supplied to Oldbury on Severn C of E School (47) and Alveston C of E School (102).

11th October 1943

For the first time all the schools to be catered for by the canteen have received meals today. Almost five hundred meals are needed daily.

21st October 1943

Mr A Long has been appointed Assistant Caretaker Salary £30 per annum.

1st December 1943

Miss Irene Strong commenced as an Assistant Cook today.

24th February 1944

Mr Watkins County Education Secretary, with Capt. Bennett and the Revd R G Rawstorne (Vicar) visited the school to discuss with the Headmaster the proposal to build a Youth Service Hut.

29th February 1944

Mr Watkins called with the County Architect, who brought plan for a proposed extension to the School Canteen.

1st May 1944

Miss Joan Hook is from today "Canteen Supervisor" in place of Miss Wackett who has left as she is getting married.

6th June 1944

"Invasion Day".

17th June 1944 Saturday

Thornbury Railway Station and the branch line from Thornbury to Yate ceases to deal with passenger traffic after today.

24th June 1944

The school's total contribution in "Salute the Soldier" week: £1350.

26 pairs of Wellington boots (a gift from America) have been received for distribution to scholars.

25th January 1945

A heavy snowstorm has very considerably reduced the attendance.

9th April 1945

Mrs Trayhurn is absent owing to her husband being on leave from HM Forces.

8th May 1945

V E Day (Victory in Europe Day). Today and tomorrow are officially Public Holidays, and the school is closed for the two days.

10th May 1945

A special Service of Thanksgiving was held in school this morning. The chairman of the managers, with his wife (Mrs Pitcher) and Mr AG Thompson attended. An address was given by the Revd RG Rawstorne.

2nd June 1945

Thornbury Scholars were entertained to tea by the Maritime Regt.

2nd July 1945

School closed on the occasion of a General Election.

17th October 1945

Thanksgiving Week (Oct 6-13th). Savings collected through school £613 15s 6d

19th December 1947

School closed for the Christmas Holidays. School Parties have been held for the first time for many years.