

NATIONAL SCHOOL LOG BOOK (now St Mary's C of E School)
BRIEF EXTRACTS WW2 (1939 – 1945)

7th June 1939

ARP Inspector called to find out the number of children and examine the building and outbuildings.

4th August 1939

School closed for summer vacation. To reopen 5th September.

18th September 1939

School has remained closed for a longer period than was stated owing to Declaration of War. Mr Tanner HMI called to inspect the seating accommodation..

14th May 1940

All schools in Neutral and Reception areas were opened today (middle of Whitsun vacation) owing to the present circumstances (ie invasion of Holland and Belgium by Germany). All previous holiday arrangements cancelled.

17th May 1940

School to remain open until further notice.

4th June 1940

School visited by HMI Mr Tompkins in order to provide accommodation for evacuees from Harwich.

5th June 1940

School visited by Miss Chapman (Head Teacher of the Harwich Esplanade Infants School) and her assistants to make the necessary arrangements to begin school work.

10th June 1940

Mr Tompkins visited school to see the Evacuated Teachers.

4th July 1940

School began at 9.55 am owing to an air raid..

17th July 1940

School closed at noon for a rest during afternoon session.

18th July 1940

During an Air Raid from 11.30am – 12.25 the children were taken to the shelter.

19th July 1940

Medical, ARP & School Closure information received. Children in shelter from 3.30pm – 5.15pm during an air raid.

25th July 1940

Air Raid 1.50 – 2.25pm

1st August 1940

School closed at 4pm for the August vacation. Owing to the war the school will re-open after a fortnight on 19th August unless otherwise stated before.

13th September 1940

School closed today for a fortnights holiday.

30th September 1940

Commenced school. Opened at 10am owing to nightly air raids.

School Hours now

10am – 12.15pm

1.30 – 4pm (3.30 infants)

8th October 1940

Dentist visited evacuees.

9th April 1941

School closed for Easter holidays and will re-open Monday 21st April. Half day longer given by MP from Harwich who had previously visited the Secretary for Education. Otherwise school would have closed at noon on 10th April.

30th May 1941

All children over 10 years taken to Council School this afternoon for Community Singing under Leslie Woodgate (BBC Conductor of Men's Chorus) to prepare for the children's procession during War Weapon's Week here (June 7 – 14th).

20th June 1941

School closed today owing to success of War Weapon's Week.

2nd September 1941

Evacuees (from Harwich) were transferred to the Thornbury Council School.

14th – 21st February 1942

School collected £392 9s for Warship Week. Aim = £120 to purchase an anchor.

2nd March 1942

Day given for holiday for effort made during Warship Week.

2nd July 1942

Reported that Walter Riddiford hurt his toe by a stone falling from the shelter.

7th April 1943

Douglas Pearce had his bicycle damaged by USA vehicle outside the school gate. He was quite unhurt.

11th May 1943

Last week was “Wings for Victory” Week. School Aim was £100 and £160 was collected.

20th September 1943

37 children received hot mid-day dinners which were sent from the Council School Canteen in containers.

15th May 1944

“Salute the Soldier” Week. Collected £72 17s towards a target of £100.

22nd May 1944

Total collected by School Savings Group £459 15s for “Salute the Soldier” week.

7th September 1944

6 of each: soup plates, knives, large forks, small forks, spoons and dinner plates received from Council School.

26th September 1944

Ditto

9th October 1944

2 forms 17 inches high received for canteen.

19th October 1944

1 mustard pot, 2 salt cellars, 2 pepper pots from Council School.

9th November 1944

10 forms received for canteen.

13th November 1944

3 Dining Tables received.

8th – 9th May 1945

School closed to celebrate the Victory in Europe.