

EXTRACTS FROM WHITTON SCHOOL LOG 1914-1918

Attendance

Winter/Spring 1914/15 – total 83 children in register.

Average attendance at school 61 to 73 due to Whooping Cough, Measles and Diphtheria. The school was also closed at times due to flooded roads. Various children were too late to be marked present.

Autumn 1915 – attendance improved – September 17th 1915 highest attendance at 82.

Winter/Spring 1915/16 – low attendance due to inclement weather and Mumps.

Winter/Spring 1917/18 – low attendance due to inclement weather, Chickenpox and Tuberculosis.

Lessons

Arithmetic, English, Scripture, History, gardening lessons for boys at Castle Hill garden plot, for girls cooking and laundry lessons.

School Managers

Mr S H Daniels

Mistress Miss E H Jackson

Miss Revans

Mr A Turner

Revd G Archer

Mrs Catchpole

Names of some of the children

Jessie and Emily Gooch

Arthur James

Violet and Rose Cartwright

Florence and Dorothy Caley

Evelyn Folkhard (Daughter of Edward Folkhard Village Constable)

Madge Stricke

Louie Lloyd

Dorothy Gostling

Dick, Hilda and Jack Parker

Fred Eley

Fred Bragg (Son of Henry Bragg on War Memorial)

George Gooch

EXTRACTS FROM THE DAILY LOG 1915 TO 1918

Wednesday March 31st 1915

Permission was granted for children to bring eggs to school to send towards the collection being made in Ipswich for the wounded soldiers, 116 were sent, this number included those sent by friends in the village.

Wednesday April 21st 1915

At the end of scripture lesson Mistress read the words addressed by General John French to the 4th Suffolks on Saturday afternoon last. At the end the children gave three cheers for the officers and men. They honoured those fallen by a silence of salute.

Thursday May 20th 1915

Eggs were collected and sent to the Broadwater Hospital for the wounded soldiers. A sum of 5/- was collected towards the Empire Day Overseas Fund which is to provide comforts for our soldiers and sailors.

Tuesday June 22nd 1915

Mistress left school early to attend the meeting of Suffolk Needlework Guild which takes place each year at Datchet House through the kindness of the Misses Steward.

Wednesday July 7th 1915

At playtime this morning the children assembled in front of the schoolhouse to watch a detachment of the 4th Suffolks pass through. A 'halt' was made and the children sang a recruiting song and gave three cheers for the 4th Suffolks. The officer commanding called upon the men to give three cheers for the children.

Friday March 3rd 1916

In connection with the National Egg Collection it is proposed to arrange a weekly egg collection, the eggs collected will be sent weekly to Miss May Fisk.

Tuesday March 7th 1916

Mr Ely R N engaged in mine sweeping being on leave was invited to spend time at school, the children sent a message to the other men belonging to Mr Ely's ship.

Friday March 24th 1916

On Thursday March 23rd Sergeant Ernest Pollentine 9th Service Battalion Suffolk Regiment being on leave from the Front paid a visit to the school. He was a scholar from Jan 1897 to Jan 1906.

Wednesday December 13th 1916

Mothers were invited to school in the afternoon. A good number attended, although some were prevented being at work in the fields.

Thursday 8th February 1917

The drill lesson today consisted of a brisk walk as far as Whitton Rectory.

Thursday 22nd March 1917

Three older boys dug up a garden opposite the school for a soldiers wife.

Thursday 22nd May 1917

A party of girls visited the War Time Cookery Exhibition accompanied by the Head Teacher.

Thursday 24th May 1917

Affiliated schools to the Victoria League placed flowers on the 'Field of Honour' and the children of this school sent their tribute. A visit from a convalescent Australian office and six wounded soldiers from the Ipswich & East Suffolk Hospital. The children and teachers provided tea and cigarettes for the soldiers and sent cigarettes to our own wounded (old scholars in hospital).

Thursday 7th June 1917

At 4.15pm the hooter sounded as a warning of an air raid. Children were quickly gathered together, told to go home quickly and quietly. Practical lessons had been given on this and they must be ready to obey any order given.

Wednesday 13th June 1917

Air raid warning was sounded at 11.20 am. All children were immediately sent home.

Thursday 14th June 1917

The air raid warning again given at 2.40pm children again going home. At 3.45pm 'all safe' signal given and majority of children returned to school.

Friday 20th July 1917

The timetable will not be followed as the sacks or rather sandbags will be finished. It has been found that this particular form of war work is not suitable for so small a school and therefore no further sandbags will be undertaken.

Tuesday 31st July 1917

Twelve wounded soldiers were entertained by the children to a concert and tea.

Wednesday 26th September 1917

Three older boys were awarded prizes at the vegetable show, Fred Ely, Fred Bragg and George Gooch, for a collection of vegetables grown on their allotments which they have been cultivating in their fathers' absences on Active Service.

Wednesday 24th October 1917

The total collection of horse chestnuts was seven sacks. These were conveyed to the central storing place in a military lorry through the courtesy of the commanding officer of the Claydon depot.

Note: Acetone for military use was extracted from starch in the chestnuts to replace imports when shipping blockades took effect.

Thursday 25th October 1917

Mrs Archer came into school to show children the wreath she was placing on the grave of an Australian soldier, and to receive the flowers the children had for the same purpose.

Friday 30th November 1917

The girls have made 8 pairs of socks for the Victoria league and 9 pairs for the Endell Street Hospital in London.

Wednesday 30th January 1918

On Tuesday evening an 'old girls' social was held in the schoolroom. Most of those present are engaged in munitions work or are in service in Ipswich. Three are married and are living in Whitton, another girls is a shorthand typist, her sister a clerk. There was also a dressmaker and another girl does Post Office work in the village.

Wednesday 27th March 1918

28 eggs sent to National Egg Collection and 27 in February. William Warner, an old scholar home from France on leave visited the school on 15th March.

Monday 1st July 1918

17 children admitted from various town schools. They are children likely to benefit from the fresh air and other country conditions.

Tuesday 9th July 1918

In place of drill classes went for a 'route march', each child carrying a chair to the Rectory in readiness for a tea for wounded soldiers; it spared carting by a farmer.

Monday 2nd September 1918

Several older boys stayed away for harvest work. Mistress sent a note requesting their attendance and they were returned to school.

Thursday 18th September 1918

The older boys started a very dangerous game on the playground using pieces of iron on string. It was at once stopped and the boys forbidden to play it on the playground and elsewhere.

Friday 11th October 1918

A good quantity of nutshells and plum stones were sent to Food Economy Office today. 16/- was sent to the Suffolk Prisoners of War Fund.

Note: Nutshells and fruit stones made good quality charcoal for use in gas masks which provided protection from gas attacks.

Thursday 31st October 1918

On advice of Medical Officer of Health the schools close today for 10 days as a precautionary measure against the influenza epidemic.

Note: The Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918-19 caused circa 50 million deaths worldwide, it killed more people than WW1.