

Extracts from Fawkham School Logs 1873-1903

Log Book One

July 15 th 1873 Tuesday	I Sarah Ellen House an ex pupil teacher (provisionally certificated) took charge of Fawkham Mixed School. It is a new school lately built and was formally opened on Monday evening July 14 th with a tea to the parents which was given by Mr and Mrs Hohler of Fawkham Manor. Admitted 18 girls and 10 boys varying in age from 12 to 3.
July 18 th 1873 Friday	Finished the examination of the children. Find that they are very backward in their studies especially Arithmetic. Several of them have not attended school before.
November 2 nd 1877	A number of children away with colds, whooping cough, and with scarlet fever. Therefore the attendance has not been good, in fact since the holidays the average has been less than before.
November 9 th 1877	The fever continues to rage very badly and I am seriously afraid we shall be compelled to close the school. One of the children admitted on the 13 th has fallen a victim of the disease.
November 13 th 1877	Dr Ashurst has sent notice to the Managers to close the school on account of the alarming spread of the fever. It is therefore closed for an indefinite period.
January 1878	School opened today. Only 5 present.
January 24 th 1881 Monday	There has been no school held since Tuesday morning, indeed the weather has been more severe than has been known for years and terrible calamities have been heard of.
March 17 th 1884 Monday	The Diphtheria and fever seems increasing, one little girl 8 years old has died since Friday. The number decreases in the attendance, only 11 this morning and 12 this afternoon. <i>The school was closed from 19th March until 19th May due to the epidemic.</i>
May 20 th 1887	It is decided to close school for a short time on account of the spread of the measles; such a number of children in the village all down with it.
May 30 th 1887	The Doctors have sent orders that School is not to be opened just now altho' the children are recovering and no more have failed. <i>The school re-opened on June 27th with 32 children in the morning.</i>
May 24 th 1889 Friday	A very small attendance today owing to the roads being flooded yesterday through a severe thunder storm in the afternoon – Children were fetched home in waggons at ½ past 5.
July 16 th 1893	The children had a holiday today in honour of the wedding of Princess May and the Duke of York
November 12 th 1893	School closed – Owing to the numbers being ill with Diphtheria – <u>by Doctor's orders</u> . <i>School re-opened on December 5th by sanction of Dr Smith of Farningham. Only very poor attendance.</i>
February 6 th 1894	Attendance this afternoon only fair, many children followed the hounds instead of coming to school.
January 1895	Miss Charlotte Turn became the 3 rd Head. All the ink was frozen, the children wrote on slates instead of books.
March 1 st 1895	Mistress taken ill with severe attack of "Influenza". School closed this week.
December 9 th 1895	Naomi Hollands was very disobedient this morning, and on being corrected and placed in a corner, gave way to a bad fit of passionate temper, continuing to scream and shake herself for several minutes and at last pushed the Harmonium over on its back, doing it considerable damage. (The Mistress greatly regrets having to make such an entry as the above.)
August 4 th 1896	A pouring wet day, only 11 children came: these being wet through had to return. In the afternoon the roads were simply flowing with water therefore no school.
August 6 th 1896	After a very poor week the school broke up for the Harvest holidays -5 weeks.

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September 21st 1896	Opened up the school this morning after <u>6 weeks</u> holidays with only <u>24 children</u> the absentees being still employed in the hop gardens.
July 1897	Tea for all the children in the parish. The tea was given in the grounds of the Manor and was followed by games, races, swings etc.
July 8 th 1897	About the middle of the forenoon, while lessons were going on as usual, a Large patch of the <u>ceiling</u> suddenly descended on the heads of the children in Standards IV and V, making a terrible crash. The children were, as soon as possible sent into the playground and the Principal Manager at once informed - - -The results were, providently, nothing worse than a few bruises, a matter for thankfulness.
July 28 th 1898	The school was closed yesterday as some of the children made an excursion to Ramsgate, which , it is needless to assert, was thoroughly enjoyed it being with most of them, their <u>first</u> sight of the sea.
August 11 th 1898	Have been much shocked this evening to hear that one of our Infant boys, who was a school <u>the day before yesterday</u> , Douglas Everest, <u>died</u> this afternoon of Diphtheria.
February 20 th 1899	Mary and Edith Cadd returned to school today, after being absent for <u>5 months</u> with Whooping Cough – They both seem to have forgotten <u>everything</u> they had previously learned.
May 24 th 1899	The children have sung the National Anthem this morning, in honour of the 80 th Birthday of our beloved Queen.
July 17 th 1900	School could not be opened this morning, as <u>just before 9 a.m.</u> the Sanitary cart arrived and commenced the unsavoury business of cleaning the school ‘offices’, the stench in the school-room and play-ground being unbearable –Therefore the children who lived in the village were sent home and those who lived at a distance were sent into the park to amuse themselves- School was conducted in the afternoon.
November 13 th 1900	Have been compelled to administer Corporal punishment to A. Streatfield, C. Stevens and H. Everest for continued and persistent disobedience and bad behaviour. These three boys only laugh in one’s face if spoken to, and this example is having a very detrimental effect of their mates. Am determined to put a stop, firmly to all such conduct on their part and ensure an orderly working of the school.
March 22 nd 1901	Irregular attendance of the children is the cause of much of the backward state of the school. Those children who are so habitually irregular, are those who spoil the work of the class.
July 1 st 1901	Obliged to close the school this morning for a week as one boy A. Streatfield had infested it with undesirable company to such an extent that it had to be fumigated by the Sanitary Inspector as the seats were not safe for the children to sit upon.
July 8 th 1901	Opened this morning after the necessary cleansing. School quite clean. Have excluded Streatfield from attending.
July 9 th 1901	Received a visit from the mother of the above named boy to inform me that he was perfectly clean and entirely free from insects. As I knew from personal inspection of him on July 1 st that it was a barefaced untruth, and as I was aware that she had taken no pains to clean him, I refused to be cajoled or bullied into allowing him inside the school premises. Until the house and the woman herself and other child have all been properly fumigated I shall refuse the boy admission for the protection of myself, teachers, and scholars.
July 28 th 1902	Presented one boy for Junior Scholarship (County Council). He was successful, being no.10 on the list of 111 candidates. Will attend Rochester Mathematical School in September.
August 13 th 1902	School closed for Coronation festivities.
August 6 th 1903	Children had their annual treat at the Manor today, each child received a present of a toy.

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August 12 th 1903	<p>Have received the report of the HM Inspectors as follows – “This School is taught with distinguished intelligence and as a consequence, the children make excellent progress, and show a very good knowledge of their work. The infant class is creditably taught under really difficult circumstances. I have more than once drawn attention to the increasing need for a class room in which the infants can be taught without interfering the instruction of the older children and I hope that this room will now be provided”.</p> <p>His requested that definite proposals may now be submitted to the Board of Education for the provision of an infant classroom, as suggested by HM Inspectors.</p>
September 21 st 1903	<p>Mrs Dench very much annoyed, at the Sch. Attendance Officer calling upon her. Gertrude’s attendance for the year ending June 30th 69% : Whilst the percentage for the whole school last year was 92%. Mrs Dench thinks that the registers are not correctly marked, but will not get a medical certificate.</p>