

Extracts from Fawkham School Logs 1903 - 1947

Log Book Two

November 4 th 1903	The period covered by the old Log Book was from July 14 th 1973 until Nov 3 rd 1903, upwards of thirty years. Entries in the book have been made by ten Head Mistresses.
January 11 th 1904	I have been mistress of this school for 2 years. The attendance during that time may be called excellent. The greatest drawback is the frequent removal of children from the parish, and the admission of new children. Of the 66 children now in the school 22 were here when I came two years ago, and 44 are children admitted since that time; and 11 have been admitted and have left.
January 13 th 1904	The boy Arthur Budd, is at intervals a source of disturbance in the school. I wrote to his father.
January 15 th 1904	Mr Budd believes the boys tales, upon questioning him this morning, he was insolent and I caned him. His insubordinate manner is bad for the school, and it will be beneficial for him to be transferred to a school where there is a master.
March 25 th 1904	School examined this week. A good three month's progress has been made. Time is wasted daily owing to insufficient accommodation. Monitor will cease work on April 22 nd : The Kent Education Committee have agreed to advertise for a teacher serving under Art 50; to be Assistant in this school. Salary £55 per annum. The school has been understaffed for 9 months, the average being upwards of 60 for the year.
April 11 th 1904	Miss Palmer resigned her post as Assistant in this school.
April 29 th 1904	An Assistant has been advertised for during the past month, one unsuitable applicant has applied for the post.
May 6 th 1904	Miss Palmer left school today. No applications for the post of Asst. have been received.
May 9 th 1904	Am not working according to the timetable. It will not be possible until more assistance is obtained. Two girls assist with infants. It is very difficult to do anything with them owing to the crowded state of the class.
June 13 th 1904	Workmen commenced classroom today.
June 24 th 1904	Closed school for the fruit picking holidays. The holidays have been extended two weeks, as there is plenty of fruit picking and likely to be a little hop picking, also the workmen have not finished the classroom. The weather has been excessively hot during the last two weeks. Edward John Bell was one of the 17 successful boys in Kent who have been recommended for a studentship at a Secondary School.
August 11 th 1904	Hammering on new building makes school work difficult especially this afternoon.
August 12 th 1904	I find it impossible to teach whilst men are hammering lead on the roof, two men nailing tiles on roof, and two carpenters at work also, so have sent the children home.
August 24 th 1904	Half-holiday given this afternoon for the Local Flower Show and Industrial Exhibition, (Fawkham, Ash, Hartley, Kingsdown, Stansted and Ridley). Inez Spink obtained first prize for needlework. Annie Hobbs obtained third prize for needlework.
September 5 th 1904	Reopened school today, and classroom used for the first time. 66 children present. Teaching will be difficult in the school room until new desks are received. Seven children are sitting in desks seven foot long.
September 5 th 1904 (Copy)	<u>Received the Government Report today – Year ended 30th June 1904</u> Mixed School “The school maintains its character under the present Mistress for very highly efficient teaching, notwithstanding the need for a class room to relieve its crowded classes, a want which, I understand, is at last to be supplied.”
September 15 th 1904	Wrote a letter to Mrs Hooker, requesting her to send the children cleaner, and to have their clothes washed. This I hoped would be done before Monday it is now Thursday. The four children are not fit to sit near clean children. The Easton family are little better.

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September 26 th 1904	Removed Charles Stevens name from Register after five weeks absence. He returned to school today although he has passed the examination for "labour "Certificate.
October 1 st 1904	Have begun a new history reader "Macmillans" which is chiefly an outline of the growth and expansion of the British Empire.
December 15 th 1904	Received a letter from the Kent Ed. Committee saying that the Mistress of this school is not allowed coal, because school house is not adjoining the school. I write asking them to send someone to see the house, it is very damp very cold, and very inconvenient. The Mistress has never had coal and she is not to have it; and because the children have never had prizes out of the school funds they are not to have any now, notwithstanding their excellent attendance.
December 22 nd 1904	Mrs Hildenbrand of Cross House, Fawkham, distributed sweets, crackers and oranges amongst the children. She was much pleased with their recitation and singing. School was closed today for two weeks.
January 24 th 1905	Josephine Smith has been awarded a Pupil Teacher Studentship, tenable at Rochester Girls' Grammar School, valued at £17.11.0 annually (£17.55).
May 15 th 1905	Naomi Hollands has commenced work today as a Supplementary Teacher (Probationer).
May 24 th 1905	"Empire Day" Special lesson on "Our Flag". National Anthem sung.
July 31 st 19105	<u>Received the Government Report today – Year ended June 30th 1905</u> "The School is much improved by the new classroom for the Infants, and will I think continue to do well under the new teacher. Water should be laid on to the cloakroom lavatories."
August 24 th 1905	Nine garments were sent for Exhibition, (<i>Local Flower Show and Industrial Exhibition</i>) and five received prizes. Inez Spink and Florence Dench 1 st Prizes Maud Selsby and Edith Spink 2 nd Prizes Lily Hollands 3 rd Prize
September 21 st 1905	Naomi Hollands has been appointed Monitress on the place of Eva Stevens who has gained a Scholarship at the Domestic Economy School at Bromley.
November 2 nd 1905	A very poor attendance today, owing to the "North Kent Ploughing Match" being held in the neighbourhood. 19 absent.
December 20 th 1905	The children's parents came to school this afternoon and heard the School Songs. All expressed their pleasure and satisfaction with all they heard. Miss Hohler gave each child a bun at the close.
March 26 th 1906	Dr Richmond, Medical Officer of Health, has ordered the school to be closed for a fortnight.
April 9 th 1906	As the epidemic of measles is not yet over, the school will remain closed until after Easter.
May 31 st 1906	<u>Have received the Diocesan Report this morning</u> "The work done in this school is very thorough. The religious instruction is both given zealously and received by the children with great interest.
June 7 th 1906	<u>Have received the Government Report today</u> "The teaching is carried out with energy and thoroughness. The deep interest which the Mistress displays in the welfare of the school beneficially affects the behaviour and efforts of the children, who show good progress in their work. The Needlework is very good. The Infants are fairly taught".
November 16 th 1906	<u>Change of Educational Year</u> Acting on the suggestion of Mr Phillips the correspondent made application for the Educational

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	Year of this school to end on July 31 st instead of on June 30 th as heretofore. This has been allowed by the Kent Education Committee.
January 25 th 1907	Dr Smith called this morning to say that Gertrude Dench is suffering with Scarlet Fever.
January 28 th 1907	The desks, rulers and pens have been washed with Condy's Fluid this morning <i>(This is most useful as a deodoriser and disinfectant. Weak solutions, such as a dessertspoonful per gallon, have been found useful, however, for mild fungoid attacks.)</i> Timetable not kept.
February 28 th 1907	A second case of Scarlet Fever reported – Ada Andrews. Mr Longhurst the Sanitary Inspector visited this morning.
March 1 st 1907	School closed today in order that the two rooms may be fumigated.
March 25 th 1907	Another case of Scarlet Fever reported. Received a telegram from Dr Smith ordering school to be closed. <i>(School closed for a fortnight, which will include the Easter Holiday)</i>
September 24 th 1907	Admitted Mabel Crouch. No. on books 66.
May 26 th 1908	<u>Have received the Diocesan Report today</u> “My visit and examination lead me to conclude that this is one of the very best village schools in the diocese. The religious teaching is being fully and ably given. The accurate knowledge and high tone of the children leave nothing to be desired. I have rarely met a class of Infants so extremely bright, communicative, and generally intelligent as those in this school. I would only suggest that the supply of coloured Bible pictures be further supplemented”.
March 3 rd 1909	Another heavy fall of snow has made the roads almost impassable; therefore the school will be closed for the remaining three days of this week.
March 26 th 1909	Dr J Dundas attended to conduct the Medical Inspection. Two girls were found to be suitable for admission to special schools. One being excluded from attendance. Two children have decayed teeth, one has adenoids, one has weakness of the eyes, and one anaemia. The parents of these children have been advised.
September 8 th 1909	School closed today until Sep: 27 th for the Hopping Holiday.
September 27 th 1909	School re-opened. Hopping in the neighbourhood is not yet over, therefore several of the children have not yet returned to school.
October 21 st 1909	Dr J Dundas attended to conduct the Medical Inspection. Eighteen children were examined. He excluded Leonard Pocknall for three months, as he found he was suffering from Phthisis; and Mabel Mills for two months. <i>(Phthisis : a progressively wasting or consumptive condition; especially : pulmonary tuberculosis)</i>
November 9 th 1909	Our King's Birthday. A new Union Jack, paid for by subscription, was hoisted this morning for the first time by H B Hohler: The National Anthem was sung by the children.
August 25 th 1910	Yesterday the children of this school were awarded sixteen prizes at the Industrial Exhibition. 9 for Needlework, 1 for Knitting, 1 for Drawing, 1 for Brushwork, 3 for Modelling and 1 for Crayon drawing. 9 Firsts, 3 Seconds and 4 Thirds
December 14 th 1911	Mistress absent this afternoon to attend the Funeral of Miss Hohler.
September 29 th 1913	During the Holiday the Government Report has been received which is as follows “This is a thoroughly satisfactory little school, and the careful and conscientious teaching noted in the last report is fully maintained.”

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June 24 th 2014	No school owing to a Jumble Sale being held in the school.															
December 8 th 1914	I have received notice of two cases of Scarlet Fever, both cases from one family.															
December 18 th 1914	One of the two boys who had Scarlet Fever died, and was buried last Tuesday. The attendance this week has been the lowest for the quarter, entirely caused by the wet weather 89.4%															
February 5 th 1915	While the cold weather lasts all the children will be taught in one room, so that as little coal may be used as possible. The Time Table will be adhered to as much as is possible.															
December 9 th 1918	The school has been closed from October 30 th until to-day on account of the Influenza Epidemic. 12 children are absent who have not fully recovered from an attack of Influenza.															
December 20 th 1918	As there are still so many cases of Influenza among the children, it has been decided to close the school for a fortnight instead of a week, for the Christmas holiday.															
March 20 th 1919	<p><u>Report by H.M.I</u> "An air of cheerful industry prevails. The scholars are helpful and self-reliant, they develop under the kindly influence of their teachers.</p> <p><u>Heating</u> The following table shows the temperatures of the Class Room recorded at 10am</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>January</th> <th>Feb</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Below 40°</td> <td style="text-align: center;">–</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4 times</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40° – 45°</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3 times</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4 times</td> </tr> <tr> <td>46° – 50°</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14 times</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7 times</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over 50°</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2 times</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2 times</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Similar conditions obtain, no doubt, in the main room.... In both cases warming depends on old-fashioned fire-grates that give little heat in proportion to the fuel they consume.....</p> <p>The 'offices, which consist of four privies and a urinal, are dirty and disagreeable. The closets are so arranged that light and air cannot be freely admitted.</p> <p>There is no accommodation whatever for teachers.</p> <p>So long as war conditions obtain it is difficult to remedy defects, but the arrangements as to warming ought not to be tolerated even in war time.</p>		January	Feb	Below 40°	–	4 times	40° – 45°	3 times	4 times	46° – 50°	14 times	7 times	Over 50°	2 times	2 times
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Below 40°	–	4 times														
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February 9 th 1920	A new stove has been put into the Infants Room during the week end.															
December 16 th 1920	The Nurse visited the school to examine the head of the children.															
June 29 th 1921	School was closed this afternoon on account of the visit of Princess Mary to Gravesend.															
November 11 th 1921	Mr Harvey visited the school and gave the children an address on "Temperance".															
February 28 th 1922	School closed today for the Princess Mary's Wedding.															
October 2 nd 1922	<u>Scholarship Success</u> Gladys Hollands has obtained a Free Place Scholarship at the Gravesend County School for Girls.															
November 21 st 1922	Whooping Cough has broken out amongst the children and to-day 18 children are absent.															
November 24 th 1922	An order to close the school until December 18 th on account of the outbreak of Whooping Cough.															
December 18 th 1922	As only 23 children arrived this morning it has been decided to keep the school closed until Jan 3 rd 1923.															
May 30 th 1923	The school is to be closed until June 18 th because of the epidemic of Measles.															
March 27 th 1924	At a Sale organized by the Head Teacher, the sum of £14.10.0 was realized (£14.50). This will be devoted to the provision of a new floor in the main room.															
November 19 th 1924	The school was closed this day in honour of the visit of the Prince of Wales to open the new Road.															
June 18 th 1926	<u>Scholarship</u> Harry Hollands has been awarded a Free Place Scholarship. He will attend the County School for Boys, Gravesend.															
November 25 th 1926	I have been notified that Frances Book of Speed Gate Cottages is suffering from Scarlet Fever and has been removed to the Isolation Hospital.															

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June 16 th 1929	Phyllis Hadlum had to be excluded owing to the dirty state of her head.
November 25 th 1929	William Scudder will be absent from school for a fortnight as his younger brother is suffering from Scarlet Fever.
November 29 th 1934	Royal Wedding – No School.
May 6 th 1935	School closed for the Silver Jubilee celebrations of our beloved King and Queen.
January 28 th 1936	Day of National Mourning for our late beloved King George, of blessed memory. School closed.
April 30 th 1937	Since the beginning of the year we have lost twelve children owing to the “over-crowding act.” No. on books 53.
May 11 th 1937	School will be closed for the three remaining days of this week in honour of The King’s Coronation.
June 30 th 1937	<u>Government Report by H.M.I. Mr G.R.B. Loch</u> “The happy atmosphere of this three class rural school is a noticeable as ever, and the children continue to be well mannered and industrious. The wise training in good social habits is also helping to inculcate the traditions of the school in children of families new to the area.....”
September 1 st 1939	School was open today to receive children, teachers and helpers evacuated from Eltham. The Head and assistant have been on duty at school since last Sunday, August 27 th , when they were recalled from holiday.
September 2 nd 1939	Saturday. The school was again open to receive a party of 12 mothers and 19 children.
September 19 th 1939	School re-opened this morning at 9 a.m. according to instructions received. Roll 110 + 1 – Native 52 + 1 Evacuees 58
Sept 19 th – 22 nd 1939	One session each day, the school has been used by the Infants and Girls, the other session the boys have been in attendance. When not in school, the children have been taken for a walk, had games on the field or activities in the Parish Room under the supervision of the Teachers. The sessions will be alternated next week.....
November 8 th 1939	The Committee accepted the tenancy of the Parish Room from November 6 th . It was used for school on Wed. Nov 8 th , in the morning by the Girls and Infants, in the afternoon by the boys.... The Parish Room is to be used alternately by boys and girls and infants for active and oral work e.g. Art, Handwork, Needlework, Music, Dramatic Work, Oral English, Geography and History. Written and formal work will be done in the school.
November 13 th 1939	The boys are to be in the Parish Room full time and the Girls and Infants to remain in school. Roll N 54 E 40.
November 24 th 1939	At the request of the Rector, the pictures of King George and Queen Mary which had been removed for safety, were rehung.
May 1 st 1940	An Air Raid Shelter practice was held at 9.30 a.m. in connection with the testing of the Siren. The arrangements worked satisfactorily.
May 10 th 1940	... Instructions were received from Maidstone for the staff to stand by because of the serious international situation.
May 23 rd 1940	Air Raid Wardens came to school this afternoon to fit the children’s Respirators with the new contex.
September 2 nd 1940	The reopening of school has been postponed until Sept 12 th , owing to Air Raids.
September 12 th 1940	The reopening has been again postponed until Sept. 23 rd . The windows have been protected with tape.
September 23 rd 1940	School is to reopen on September 30 th with only half the children present at any time.
September 30 th 1940	School opened this morning. Sometime in the shelter. Roll N 54 E 27
October 1 st 1940	The day has been spent between school and the shelter. Lessons are being given in groups in the shelter.

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April 19 th 1941	Heavy night raid – damage done to ceiling of senior classroom – a patch of plaster 2½’ x 2’ came down during the night.
July 24 th 1941	Mr Voysey, Agricultural Adviser, K.E.C. visited school to advise school leavers to take up farm work by attending a ‘lecture’ day once a week and thus to try to qualify for a scholarship to a college.
November 10 th 1941	Boy caned for throwing wet chalk on walls of school building.
March 11 th 1942	Men arrived to start work on the lavatories. The tiles are being removed and corrugated iron is replacing them. I made arrangements with Mr Bailey in a cottage nearby for the use of her lavatory as the job will take about a week.
July 31 st 1942	School broke up for 4 weeks holiday. School will be reopened on August 4 th , 9.45 – 3. For children to partake in activities and games, in order to release mothers for war work.
August 4 th 1942	School opened today – the second day of the Summer holiday – for the above purpose. The response however was so poor as to make future opening not worth while. Most of the children are working on the land.
September 3 rd 1942	Third anniversary of war. Service on radio.
October 16 th 1942	School breaks up today for one week’s Autumn holiday. On account of the recruitment of women on war work – the long Summer holiday was reduced from 6 weeks to four – and this week is one of the curtailed weeks.
November 7 th 1942	Miss Ching, Canteens Representative, called to check details of starting canteen dinners at this school. It is proposed that hot meals are cooked at Longfield Parish Hall canteen and brought out to us in receptacles by car.
March 30 th 1943	Nurse Hart visited school and found all heads were clean, but also found four cases of Scabies and one of empitigo.
May 3 rd 1943	School re-opened after Easter Holiday. Wings of Victory Week begins today. The target for the School Group is £150.
May 5 th 1943	The Induction took place today at 3pm of the new Rector Mr W J Sugden. I attended. School was dismissed at 3pm in order to attend open air films for Wings for Victory Week.
May 7 th 1943	Total savings collected by School Group for Wings for Victory Week £276-16-6. (<i>£276.83</i>)
May 12 th 1944	“Salute the Soldiers” Week ended. School Groups Target £200 School Groups Total £511-10-0 (<i>£511.50</i>)
June 16 th 1944	Attendance 24% today – Air Raid (Pilotless No.2) continued throughout the night and still going on at 9am. “All Clear” went at 11.30, but throughout day, “Alerts” and “All Clears” continue as Robots come over.
June 22 nd 1944	Robot raids continue. 24 children out of 42 present. The children work in classrooms but at hint of a Robot, we run into the shelter, and return to classrooms as soon as it has passed over.
June 27 th 1944	Raids bad overnight and continue this morning. Attendance 18 out of 43 present. Cherbourg has fallen into Allied hands exactly three weeks after D day.
July 6 th 1944	Hot summers Day, clear blue sky – Work outdoors. Lights cut off in shelters, but adjourned to it three times during the morning. Received a notification from Maidstone, offering Government Evacuation of School Children. Registration to take place on Friday and Saturday - & Departure for unknown destination on Monday.
July 7 th onwards	<i>Children started to be evacuated in small groups</i>
July 11 th 1944	Evacuation of eleven children of this school. Departed by bus at 9am and left Swanley Station by train at 10am. Arrived in Yeovil, Somerset at 2pm. Children taken in one party by bus to West Chinnock, 7 miles out of Yeovil. All placed in comfortable billets. Head Teacher accompanied them, and returned on Thursday July 13 th and back on duty on Friday 14 th .
August 3 rd 1944	Heavy raid last night. School windows blasted and ceiling down. Sir Thomas and Lady Hohler visited the school to assess bomb damage.

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September 13 th 1944	The electric lights are now completed and the electricity Co. have been asked to call to connect the meter.
September 20 th 1944	Mr F E Dann H.M.I. visited the school this afternoon and took particulars of the roll and attendances before and after the advent of flying-bomb attacked.
October 31 st 1944	An Alert sounded this morning at 8:50am, so the children went straight to the Air Raid Shelter on arrival. The All Clear sounded at about 9:15am after very distant gun-fire.
November 22 nd 1944	Mr Motley, the District secretary, called to tell me that arrangements are being made for Canteen Dinners to be provided here. The meals will be cooked at Hartley and brought down here in containers. I am very pleased that at last the children will have a hot midday meal.
December 14 th 1944	The evacuees returned at noon today as they were prevented by thick fog from continuing their journey from Swanley yesterday evening.
May 7 th 1945	Rumours of German Surrender.
May 8 th 1945	School closed to celebrate <u>Victory in Europe</u>. Celebrations included a Thanksgiving Service at the Church, another on Fawkham Green, bonfires, sports and tea for the children. Sixteen children from this school danced a May-pole Dance.
January 24 th 1946	A meeting was held at Hartley School of School Managers and Head Teachers of Ash, Fawkham and Hartley Schools to discuss the reorganisation of the same. At a future date all children of 11 years and over will continue their education at a Secondary School. Free travel facilities will be provided to Northfleet Modern School and St. George's, Gravesend.
July 8 th 1946	It is with very deep regret that I record the tragic death of Sheila Martin yesterday afternoon. Her body was found in the early hours of this morning, lying in Sun Hill Woods, having met her death at the hands of person or persons unknown. Those of us who knew and loved her, extend to her parents and friends the deepest sympathy. Superintendent F Smeed visited the school this morning with a number of C.I.D. detectives and questioned the children. None had seen Sheila during Sunday afternoon.
July 9 th 1946	Parents are escorting the children to and from school.
July 12 th 1946	School closed this afternoon. Miss Tidy and I attended the funeral at Fawkham Church of Sheila Martin. Many flowers were sent by her friends here, and the whole village deeply mourns her tragic death.