

1st March 1956

Horton-in-Ribblesdale C.E. School.
Report by H.M. Inspectors.

Dear Mr. Wardell,

The Report by H.M. Inspectors, following a visit of inspection to your school on the 16th November, 1955, was submitted to the Settle District Education Sub-Committee at their meeting held on the 28th February, 1956.

I was requested to convey to you and Mrs. Morphet, the Committee's congratulations on the excellent nature of the Report.

Yours sincerely,

Acting Divisional Education Officer.

D. Wardell Esq.
Endowed School,
Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

WEST RIDING
COUNTY COUNCIL
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Morton-in-Ribblesdale C.E. (J.M.I.) School
Report by H.M. Inspectors.

Mr Acting D.E.O. Settle.

With reference to Circular D.O. 54/283 of the
10th November, 1954, I attach hereto 35 copies of a report
by H.M. Inspectors following their visit of inspection to the
above-named school on the 16th November, 1955.

25th January, 1956.

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PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

HORTON-IN-RIBBLESDALE C.E. SCHOOL (J.M.I.)

REPORT BY H.M. INSPECTORS.

INSPECTED ON 16th NOVEMBER, 1955.

Horton-in-Ribblesdale Endowed Primary School has a direct link with Horton Free Grammar School, which was founded in the seventeenth century. The school buildings (which are situated in Ribblesdale between the south-western slopes of Pen-y-ghent and the northern side of Moughton Ridge) have been in use for more than a hundred years; they were extended in 1908. Not only are they attractively placed in the heart of one of the most extensive parishes in the country, but they provide remarkably good accommodation for the fifteen infants and twenty-four juniors who were on roll at the time of the inspection. They are spacious, in sound structural condition, adequately heated and well lighted and furnished. The only major criticism which can be directed against them is that the infants should have a comparatively small classroom while the kitchen occupies an uncomfortably large room; this can, perhaps, be rectified in due course.

The infants are taught by a mistress of long experience, who has a quiet, constructive, patient manner and provides the children with an atmosphere of friendly and purposeful security. They are encouraged to talk freely and to behave naturally. Their work is well organised and good foundations are laid in the 3 Rs; indeed some of the older six-year-olds are already reading and writing with considerable confidence, while the younger ones are making steady progress. The link between number and language is recognised. More books are required, particularly for the younger children, and some more appropriate means of making them readily accessible to the children.

The juniors are taught by the headmaster. He came to Horton in 1943, after previous experience with seniors elsewhere. When, in 1949, the seniors from Horton were transferred to Ingleton, he found himself faced with the task of teaching juniors. He has since attended a number of courses and by dint of study, determination and experiment he has successfully adapted himself to the aims, methods and organisation which are appropriate to these young children.

The older juniors work according to weekly assignments in the basic subjects, thereby achieving a sense both of independence and of responsibility. Some interesting and original work is done in written language, which is likely to develop further as confidence and experience are achieved. Number is, perhaps, less successful at present both in content, approach and presentation, but the position is under review. A good collection of books is available, but more reference books are needed. Quite enterprising work is done in art and crafts.

The midday dinner has a reputation for excellence which it fully deserves, and the school owes a great deal to the caretaker who also acts as cook. The great majority of the children stay to dinner and high standards of presentation and of service are attained.

This is a good village school, where there is a very happy family atmosphere and where interesting and promising work is being done. Sound progress is achieved, difficulties and weaknesses are squarely faced, and opportunities for further development, which were discussed during the inspection, are unlikely to be neglected.