



COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Horton in Ribblesdale CE School.

28th August 1969.

Dear Mr. Riddiough,

I enclose, for your information, a copy of my annual report to the Managers which I presented to them at their August meeting.

Yours sincerely,

J.D.Riddiough Esq., B.A.
D.E.O., Skipton.

Headmaster's Report to the Managers of Horton in Ribblesdale
Church of England School for the School Year 1968 - 1969.

To the Chairman of the School Managers,

Sir,

I take pleasure in reporting to you and to your colleagues on the general condition of the school, the work and the progress of its pupils, and the special occasions and occurrences of the past year as follows:-

First Term, September to Christmas

The school re-opened for this term on September 3rd. The results of the caretaker's work were evident, the school being very clean. Despite a slight deterioration in some of the wooden blocks of the floor of the two junior classrooms, the treatment given to this floor by the caretaker had produced excellent results. School numbers were similar to the start of the previous year. Six infants were admitted, and these admissions together with normal movement of children between classes resulted in a school roll of 59, comprising 23 infants, 20 lower juniors and 16 upper juniors. This slight imbalance of numbers was caused by a rather low average age of the children in the school, which will presumably work its way through to produce a situation in the near future where the older classes will be the larger in numbers. The aim of the school, of course, is to try to give each child two years in each of the three classes, unless there are exceptional circumstances, and this factor is the main one governing class size. It is true to say that any arrangement of approximately 60 children and 3 teachers results in a teacher-pupil ratio far more favourable to the children than any situation in my previous teaching experience. Numbers were reduced still further early in the term when David and Janice Pickles left the village and transferred to Clapham Primary School.

There were no changes in the teaching staff from the previous term when school commenced, the three permanent staff members being the Headmaster, Mrs. A. Morphet and Mrs. E. Morphet, with Mrs. Walker as the 6-hour part-time teacher. Unfortunately, Mrs. A. Morphet was absent as a result of illness on September 19th and in the event was not able to return to school until November 25th. Although she was sorely missed, it was a source of some satisfaction to her colleagues that this very conscientious lady was compelled by her doctor to stay away until she had made a complete recovery! After a few days of temporary rearrangement of

classes and considerable extra help from Mrs. Walker, I was able to find a temporary replacement teacher for the infants. This lady, Mrs. Barbara Middleton of Giggleswick, had no previous experience of teaching infants and approached the job, on her own admission, with some trepidation. As it turned out, she proved to be extremely successful and became very popular with children and staff alike. Mrs. Middleton has now taken a permanent post in another school, teaching juniors, and their gain is our very definite loss. This was not to be the end of teaching staff changes for the term, however. Mrs. Walker found it necessary to give up her part-time post for personal reasons on the 7th November, but I was fortunate enough to find yet another very successful temporary replacement in Mrs. O. Bolger. Mrs. Bolger took over the 6-hour post until the return to school of Mrs. A. Morphet at the end of the month, when Mrs. Morphet once again took over the infants class, Mrs. Middleton took the 6-hour post and Mrs. Bolger left us. This was then the staffing position for the rest of the term. Some absences among the non-teaching staff during the term were coped with adequately. Mrs. Brinley was able to help when there were absences among the meals staff and Mrs. Thistlethwaite took over the duties of caretaker when her husband had a short illness during December.

It is appropriate to give a special paragraph to the retirement of Mrs. Marion Parker at the end of this term. Mrs. Parker, who had in fact already worked beyond the normal retirement age, had been kitchen maid at the school for thirteen years, during which time her hard work had been greatly appreciated. A collection among the children and staff produced over £5, and as a result one of the events of the school Christmas Party was a presentation to Mrs. Parker, on behalf of us all, by Wendy Jackson and David Alderson, of a cut glass vase and a bouquet of flowers.

The 'great events' of the term were of course those of the Christmas season. The School Carol Service was held at the Parish Church on the afternoon of the 18th of December. This took the form of a festival of carols and readings. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the readings were given by members of the Upper Juniors. The carols included three which were sung by the children only and were led by a choir of 9 children from the junior classes formed specially for the service. This small choir sang some 'parts' on their own with considerable success. Many parents and friends joined us and the church was almost full. The collection, which was made for various children's charities, was 'posted' into a special "Gift Post Box" made at the school and placed in the church for the Christmas Services. The mother of one of our lesson readers was unable to attend the service because of illness. The tape-recorder bought recently from school funds was put to good use. A complete recording of

the service was made and taken to the lady's house that evening by Mrs. Stringer so that she might hear the school's worship and her daughter's own particular part in it.

Christmas Dinner, once again of the very high standard we have come to expect from Mrs. Thistlethwaite, was served on the 19th December. Reverend and Mrs. J. P. Stringer lunched with us as our guests. An extra course, together with the sheer size of the usual two courses, caused the dinner hour to be extended somewhat beyond the usual limit and a great deal of amusement was caused by the hats made by the children, not least by those they had made for the guests and the staff and which they insisted should be worn. I can report that a cardboard coolie hat embellished with streamers and the word 'Vicar' in silver paper letters sets off a clerical collar very well.

The School Christmas Party, held on the 20th December, was the normal marathon effort from 1 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. There were games, competitions and filmstrips and a present for every child. Mr. and Mrs. Stringer were our guests once more, and tea was served by Mesdames Thistlethwaite, Barker, Metcalfe and Brinley. The total cost was approximately £23, which was of course well covered by school funds.

Another most important event of the term was the annual Jumble and Produce Sale in aid of the School Fund. This sale, which was made possible by an enormous amount of hard work by members of staff and by many representatives of the School Managers and of the parents, resulted in a profit in excess of £56. I feel that this very practical demonstration of good-will, by those who helped, by those who gave and by those who bought, is an indication that the interest of the village as a whole in its school is a lot greater than the sometimes rather disappointing parent-teacher contacts would indicate.

Visitors to the school during the term included members of the Welfare Department such as Mr. Grimoldby and Miss Wrathall, both of whom give us a great deal of help. On September 25th, Mr. R. Nicholls headed a party of three members of the Settle Area Education Sub-Committee who visited the school. The members of the party spent over an hour in school and joined us for lunch. They expressed themselves as very pleased with the school, its work and its atmosphere.

School closed for the Christmas Holidays after the party on the 20th December.

Second Term, January to Easter

Term commenced on the 7th January. During the holidays the water supplies to the lavatories had been checked by Mr. Percy of Settle. Three new infants were admitted and these, together with children admitted during the course of the previous term

gave a school roll of 62, comprising 23 infants, 23 lower juniors and 16 upper juniors. Staffing changes at the beginning of term were the appointment of Mrs. G. Kinder to the post of 6-hour teacher and Mrs. M. Birth to that of kitchen maid. Mrs. Kinder, yet another teacher with no previous experience of junior school teaching, was to prove successful in the post as time went on and was happily still with us at the end of the school year and will return in September for the new year.

During the course of the term, two students of Bingley College of Education, Miss Jennifer Howard and Miss Susan Best carried out their first teaching practice at the school. Their practice began on the 26th February and continued for a month. I consider that these teaching practices are extremely good for a school, despite a certain amount of professional opinion to the contrary. Although one does not look, obviously, for skill and experience in these students, these occasions are the most important part of their training and they do result in a very welcome breath of fresh air in the schools. It is true to say that the ideas and methods brought to the school by the students, which they have gained from tutors who are presumably au fait with the most recent educational research, are a great help to practising teachers who are never able to devote as much time as they would wish to keeping their own training up to date. It is also my opinion that the sheer novelty value of another person in the classroom stimulates the children during the teaching practice. It is my intention to offer all the help I can to Bingley College during their teaching practice periods, and I ask for the support of the School Managers in this policy. The Staff were impressed by the work of the two young ladies who were with us at this time, and I reported favourably on their progress at the completion of their practice.

The Managers will not, I am sure, need to be reminded of the periods of wintery weather during the term. Suffice to say that although the school opened every day there were many occasions when a lot of the children, particularly those who come by taxi, were unable to attend and that on one memorable day we had but 15 children in school. Valiant work by the caretaker ensured that at no time were we completely without lavatories, but we were at times reduced to just one still unfrozen.

Visitors to the school during the course of the term included Miss Imrie, C.C.I., Mr. Grimoldby, Welfare Officer, Miss Hatton, School Meals Organiser, and many other representatives of the L.E.A., all of whom gave us the unfailing help and advice we have come to expect. Miss MacPherson, a tutor at Bingley College of Education, also visited the school twice in the course of supervising the teaching practice. The Divisional Medical Officer carried out inspections during the term, and the Mobile Dental Clinic was parked in the playground for some

weeks while many of the children together with others from Stainforth school received treatment.

A Lenten Service was held at the Parish Church on the morning of the 26th February. Lessons and Prayers for the service were read by nine junior children, and although the number of adults in church with us was disappointingly low, the service proved to be most successful, and easily followed and understood by the children. Later in the term, seven junior children were chosen and rehearsed to read the lessons and prayers for the Mothering Sunday service in the Parish Church on Sunday March 16th. This they did reverently and well.

Towards the end of March my exasperation with the accumulation of rubbish in the playshed led me to light a large bonfire in the school field and cast upon it a considerable amount of old and broken furniture which I have been trying to get moved without success for some time. Having first ensured that what was to be burnt was beyond repair, I burnt it regardless of ownership. Some I am told once graced the long defunct Institute, some belonged to the Village Show, some was LEA furniture of patterns long discarded and some appeared to have no owner. All is now ash! It is perhaps ironic that the now cleared and usable playshed awaits demolition as part of the rehabilitation scheme!

Term ended on 28th March for the Easter Holidays.

Third Term, April to July

The term began on 15th April. 4 new entrants and movements between classes resulted in a school roll of 67, comprising 23 infants, 25 lower juniors and 19 upper juniors. Work carried out during the holiday by contractors meant that the kitchen was equipped with new cookers and that special electrical sockets had been fitted in the school for the aquaria. Unfortunately, no new kitchen maid had been appointed as a replacement for Mrs. Firth, who resigned for personal reasons on 7th March, but Mrs. Greenbank and Mrs. Brinley continued to help out by doing this duty on alternate days, as they had done at the end of the previous term. This they were to continue to do until the Whitsun holiday. I feel that I must express my gratitude to them both, as without their willing help the school kitchen would have had to close.

This term was most marked by the plague of rubella and then of chickenpox which swept the school, to be followed by a gradually increasing number of mumps cases, until it began to seem as though hardly a child had escaped catching at least one of the diseases. There were occasions when well over half of the infants' class were absent.

On 15th May, classes J.1. and J.2. attended the Ascension

Day service of Holy Communion at the Parish Church. A number of parents and friends joined us at the Church. The collection for Christian Aid was taken up by children of the school, and three of the children carried the bread, wine and water to the altar at the appropriate time.

On 23rd May, I made an entry in the school Log Book to mark the start of the Whitsun holiday. I feel that it will be of interest to the Managers to know that this was also the last entry in the book, which is now a record of 40 years of the school's history. The first entry of the book was made by Miss Myers on the 7th February 1929, and it records that "Miss Douglas paid a visit to the School this afternoon and inspected the Physical Exercises." It is interesting to speculate on the nature of the last entry which will be made in the book which I opened on June 9th 1969.

The second half of the term saw the appointment of Mrs. Harrison as kitchen maid, the construction of an access from the playground to the field which will ensure that the children do not go on the road, and the news that the Department of Education and Science had approved the pricing of the rehabilitation programme. The 'plague' began to die out, luckily in time for most of the junior children to be able to attend this year's School Trip on June 25th. The Managers granted an occasional holiday for the purpose and the children, 36 in all, together with 8 adults, left the village at 8 a.m. by coach en route for the docks at Fleetwood. The morning was spent on a conducted tour of the Docks, followed by a tour of the trawler "Anna Hewett" which, to the delight of the children, was moved to a new berth while they were on board. After a picnic lunch, the party went the Blackpool and to top-price seats for the matinee performance of the Tower Circus. This visit was enlivened still more when Colin Sunter was invited to join the clowns in the ring and charged around the ring on a bounce-ball! The circus was followed by donkey rides on the beach and then a superb high tea in the Woolworth's cafeteria which beat most stomachs by its size. A stop was made in a park at Lancaster on the way home for an hour of rounders in which the staff and even the coach driver joined, and a thoroughly tired out party returned to the village at about 9 p.m. It proved possible, by subsidising the cost to a small extent, to run the trip for an all-in cost of 22/- per head.

Visitors to the school included Miss Imrie, C.C.I., together with Mrs. Easto, P.E. Adviser. These ladies were able to discuss the proposed rehabilitation and to proffer excellent advice. Mrs. Easto expressed pleasure with the progress made by the L.E.A. in preparing the school playing field, which now offers opportunity for many school activities.

The Investiture, followed by the moon landings, meant that the school television set was busier than ever towards the end of term. It was most marked at the time that a television set is a real boon in a school. Not even the most inspired teaching could

impart the same sense of immediacy during these great events.

At the end of the term, on two successive Wednesday afternoons, parents of new entrants for September were given the opportunity to bring the children to school to spend some time in their new classroom. The parents were then invited to talk with the staff and to join them in the staffroom for the breaktime cup of tea. I am pleased to say that the chance was taken in five cases out of the six. However, I have to report that contact with many of the parents is still far from what we wish it to be. This, of course, is not a problem peculiar to our school. It is a national problem and one to which educationalists are giving a great deal of thought.

General points

Annual Grant of money from the School Managers

I thank the Managers and Governors for the contribution of £15 to the School Fund and report that as last year the money has been used partly to defray the cost of the School Trip and partly towards supply and maintenance of the extra pieces of equipment purchased through school funds. In this way I have been able to ensure that all the children, juniors and infants, benefit as a result of the grant.

Annual Diocesan Inspection

On July 1st, Reverend W. Ruck of Ingleton once again carried out this inspection on behalf of Canon Baker. He was able to spend a large part of the morning with us and then to join us for lunch. Mr. Ruck was given an opportunity to watch all the children at work and to speak with them. He expressed great pleasure with all he saw, and we enjoyed his visit. I presume that a report will eventually be submitted to the Managers by the Diocesan Authorities.

Staff attendance at Courses etc.

Mr. Brinley and Mrs. E. Morphet have been able to attend lectures for teachers at Settle High School on certain evenings during the year. Mr. Brinley has attended every meeting of the Primary Heads Discussion Group except one, and these meetings have included short courses in P.E., Maths, etc. Mr. Brinley has acted as a member of the Thorne Selection Panel for the area and has been appointed a 'reserve' member of the Working Party for Secondary Reorganisation in the Settle Area.

I trust that you, Mr. Chairman, and your colleagues, will find this report satisfactory.

H. Hilday
Headmaster.

D.O.

4th September, 1969.

Dear Mr. Brinley,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your annual report to the Managers. I have read it with interest.

With good wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Divisional Education Officer.

J.R. Brinley, Esq.,
C.E. School,
Horton-in-Ribblesdale,
Nr. Settle.