

North Ribblesdale

He has certainly had a
very difficult time. I
hope to bump this term.

J.P.
25/10/70.

1) Miss Smie
for inf.
2) ~~D.O.~~

RR

D.O.

22nd October, 1970.

J.R. Brinley, Esq.,
C.E. (Aided) Primary School,
Horton-in-Ribblesdale,
near Settle. BD24 OEX.

Dear Mr. Brinley,

Thank you for your letter of 21st October and the
report which you submitted to your Managers.

I have read them both with interest and sympathy.

Yours sincerely,



Divisional Education Officer.

CONFIDENTIAL



22 OCT 1970

COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

J.R. Brinley TD
Headmaster.

CE(A) JMI School,
Horton in Ribblesdale,
SETTLE. BD24 0EX

21st October 1970.

Dear Mr. Riddiough,

I attach a copy of my Annual Report to the School Managers, for your information. It is unusually lengthy, but I felt that we have just had a year both worth recording and worth bringing to the notice of those among our Managers who have not set foot inside the school during the period in question. The report was presented to the Managers at a meeting held yesterday evening (Tuesday) and was received fairly favourably apart from continuing displeasure from the Chair on the temporary 'eviction' of old pattern furniture. I was reminded that West Riding folk are by nature thrifty. I now understand that this is apparently an exclusive trait. The Managers endorsed my remarks of appreciation for the work of the staff during the year, but pointed out that all were paid and that the caretaker enjoyed overtime payments - all very true, of course, but not really the point I was making!

Yours sincerely,

Horton in Ribblesdale Church of England (Aided)
Junior Mixed and Infants School.

Headmaster's Report to the Managers of the School for the
School Year 1969 - 1970

The Correspondent to the Managers.

Sir,

It is my duty and pleasure to report to the Managers on the general condition of the school, progress during the year and special occurrences. I have delayed preparation of the report until the end of September 1970 in order that it should include the whole of the period of rehabilitation. Thus it includes reference to the beginning of the 1970 - 1971 School Year as well. For the first time the report is prepared in such a way that it can be duplicated and sufficient copies produced for all members of the Management Body to receive one. The events of each term are reported in chronological order, and general observations added at the end.

AUTUMN TERM

Rehabilitation began on the 1st of September with excavations at the rear of the site. School opened on the 2nd of September with a roll of 61 children. This figure included 6 new entrants to the Infants' class, all of whom were already five years of age. Parents of children under five were asked not to seek admission for their children until the term following their fifth birthday, a policy decided upon by the Managers in order to ease the difficulties produced by the rebuilding programme. The sizes of classes were: J2, 21; J1, 21; Infants, 19. During the first week of the term, the lower end of the playground was fenced off for use as a builder's yard, thus preventing us from using the playshed and the boys' lavatories. All children and staff made use of the lavatories previously reserved for girls and infants, and a new access path to the school field was constructed by the Headmaster and the children via the top playground gate and the field gate.

On the 15th of September, we were pleased to welcome Mrs. C. Hill as Dining Room Supervisor in place of Mrs. E. Parker who had resigned. During the month of September, visitors to the school included Miss Bloomfield, newly appointed to the County Advisory Staff, Miss Hatton, the School Meals Organiser and Miss Wrathell, the School Nurse.

The end of the month saw one of the many difficulties to come as a result of the rebuilding. A sudden drop in temperatures caused the classrooms to be below 50 degrees F. at 9 a.m., and the new central heating system had not been connected. It was connected on the 1st of October, but broke down the same day, to be restored on the 3rd of October.

A most successful Annual Produce and Jumble Sale, to raise money for the School Fund, was held on the evening of the 17th of October. Many parents and School Managers helped the Staff to prepare and run the event, which resulted in a profit to the Fund in excess of £60. As well as being a financial success, the Sale proved to be a most enjoyable social occasion and brought the largest number of parents into the school for any day of the term. On the 21st of October the Divisional Medical Officer and the School Nurse were in school all day carrying out a series of medical inspections. On the 22nd of October, the newly appointed speech therapist for the Division called at the school and I was able to refer two children to her for possible treatment. One of these children embarked on a series of visits to the speech clinic and the results by the end of the school year were most encouraging.

This first half-term ended with the encouraging news that financial grants had been made to the school, in addition to the normal capitation allowances, from the central funds controlled by the Divisional Education Officer. These were £27 towards the cost of the school television set hire and licence, and £30 towards the cost of a set of Dienes M.A.B. mathematical apparatus.

The second half-term began on November the 4th. Difficulties in staffing the school kitchen meant that school meals were brought from the Central Canteen at Settle. Mrs. Harrison had resigned from her post with the School Meals Service, and MesDames Thistlethwaite and May took up duties as 12½ hour maids, serving the container meals. Early in the term, the L.E.A. educational psychologist, Mr. Mannix, visited the school to see a pupil recommended to him as a result of the preliminary medical examinations. At the end of November, Mr. Warren called to carry out a routine inspection of the fabric of the building. The work of the school was temporarily interrupted on the 25th and the 27th of November as a result of withdrawal of teachers' services on the instructions of their various professional bodies.

Visitors to the school during December included Mrs. McGill, the new School Meals Organiser, and Miss Bloomfield. Miss Bloomfield was able to watch a rehearsal of the Carol Service at the Parish Church. The five new entrants for the Spring Term, together with their parents, spent the afternoon of December the 10th in school, and were able to meet Mrs. Clark, who was to become their class teacher in the new term. There is no doubt in my mind that this system of preliminary visits is most valuable, as when the new term starts new children attend confidently, sure of where they are going and whom they will meet.

Parents' interview night, on the 15th of December, proved to be a great disappointment. The Managers will be aware that the policy of the school is to make contact with the parents as frequent and as informal as possible. I am sure that the frank interview does far more good for the child than the written report can ever do. However, in 2¾ hours in the school, despite the fact that times were advertised and parents were offered specific interview times convenient for them, I saw just one mother. It would appear that this method does not work, and Staff are devising other means to establish contact with parents.

On the 18th of December, Christmas lunch was followed at 2.30 p.m. by the School Carol Service in the Parish Church. This was a most devout and successful occasion, with between 30 and 40 parents and friends, together with younger children, in church. Children of the school read the traditional lessons, sang individual verses of carols and acted as sidesmen. Once again, a tape recording of the Service was made, to be enjoyed later by those who could not attend.

The School Christmas Party was held on December the 19th and proved to be great fun, despite the fact that the taxi children had to be sent home at 4 p.m. because of the snow on the roads. Games and an excellent party tea were followed by presents for all the children and for the members of the school domestic staff. A rather sad note was struck by the retirement of Mrs. Alice Morphet from the Teaching Staff. More than half of Mrs. Morphet's teaching service has been spent at this school and she will be sorely missed. An appropriate presentation was made to mark the occasion.

SPRING TERM

School re-opened on the 5th of January in extremely cold weather. Despite valiant efforts by the caretaker, all the lavatories were frozen, both flushes and bowls. The new oil-fired central heating system coped with the interior of the school, despite large holes in the outside walls where extensions were being built.

Mrs. A. Clark took up duties as Infants Class teacher, with a class of 21, including 5 new entrants. Two juniors had left, thus the school roll was 64, with 21 in J2 and 22 in J1.

The frozen lavatories continued to give trouble throughout the first week of term, and the first duty of the caretaker, his wife, and the headmaster each morning was to thaw out at least one lavatory with the help of a new paraffin heater supplied by the Divisional Education Officer. The eventual thaw transferred the worries to the girls' cloakroom, where a bad leak in the roof caused trouble. Mr. Percy, the plumber, was called in to repair leaks in the water supply to the lavatories shown up by the thaw. On the 14th of January, a series of mishaps resulted in the school being without central heating, water supply and telephone. This was the first day of teaching practice at the school for Miss J. Moore, a student from Bingley College. Staff took pains to assure her that teaching was not always like that! The central heating was not restored until January 16th, but bearable temperatures were maintained in the meanwhile with convector heaters borrowed from the F.E. Centre at Settle, the paraffin heater, the small cooker in the J2 classroom and electric heaters brought from home by the staff.

In early February, two very successful parents' meetings were held at the school. On the 4th, the meeting decided to support the formation of a Cub Scout Pack in the village. This, of course, has proved to be of great benefit to many of the boys of the school and to the older boys who have joined the Scout Troop which was also formed. On the 6th, parents and Managers, together with Doctor Brewster, who very generously offered his time and advice, met the staff to see and discuss the BBC radiovision lessons "Where do babies come from?" and "Growing Up." General approval was given to the use of these lessons with the older juniors. In fact, it has not yet proved to be possible to use them, as the disturbances caused by the rebuilding have meant that there has been no suitable room to black out. However, it should now be possible to use them in the very near future. The meeting continued with an explanation and discussion of the proposals for Secondary School re-organisation in the Division. This proved to be useful, but it was obvious that another opportunity must be provided to discuss the subject further.

On February the 11th, the Juniors attended Ash Wednesday Service at the Parish Church. Many parents and friends joined us, and the children sang descent to the first hymn. Children read lessons and prayers and acted as sidesmen, and joined fully in the spirit of the Service.

On February the 13th, Miss Moore completed a most satisfactory teaching practice. A most favourable report was sent to the tutors at Bingley College, as I am sure that the school gained tremendous value from her work. The half-term ended on this day.

On Sunday, February 22nd, I returned from holiday to find that the boiler room had flooded, the electric pump and motor had been submerged and the heating was not working. For the first two days of the new half-term, classrooms were below 40 degrees at 9 a.m. and never rose above 50 degrees F. all day.

From February 25th to March 2nd Mrs. Morphet was absent from school for hospital treatment, but staffing difficulties were eased by occasional help from Mrs. P. Simpson and the start of teaching practice by Mr. M. Carey, from Bingley College.

Mrs. May undertook a fortnight's training as school cook and then re-opened the school kitchen on March 9th, to everyone's approval and relief. On March 12th, Mrs. Hill was absent because of illness and Mrs. Brinley took over duties as Dining Room Supervisor, which she continued to do until the end of term.

Police Constable Marshall, the new Road Safety Officer for the area, visited the school on March 13th and spoke to the children, illustrating his talk with appropriate film strips. Preliminary visits for new entrants for the Summer Term were made on March the 18th. Other visitors during the latter part of term included Mr. Grimoldby, the Education Welfare Officer, Mrs. McGill, Mr. Morris from Bingley College and representatives of the builders and the sub-contractors.

Term ended on March the 20th. Mrs. Clark finished her duties with the Infants class, but agreed to return in the Summer Term as the 6 hour part-time teacher with the Junior classes.

SUMMER TERM

Term began on April the 6th. There were 2 new entrants. Mrs. Graham took over the Infants class, and Mrs. Clark became part-time teacher in place of Mrs. Kinder, who moved to a full time post at Settle CE Primary School. The builders were now working in the old part of the building. There was a great spirit of co-operation between the school and the builders, but teaching was extremely difficult under these conditions. I am sure that it was at this point that the children's education began to suffer most severely. On April the 7th, the Reverend J.P. Stringer began his programme of school lessons with class J2, immediately following the Morning Service. This series of lessons has continued each Tuesday morning since, except for rare occasions when parish duties have prevented Mr. Stringer from attending school. On April 8th, the builders took over the staff room, and temporary 'homes' had to be found for the school's bulk stock. This was tucked into any corners that could be found. The results were very untidy, but unavoidable. Visitors in the early part of April included Mr. Warren, to inspect the wall of the school field, Mr. Grimoldby, Mr. Boyce of the County Architect's Dept., to see the rebuilding, Doctor Jessop and Nurse Wrathall to carry out medical inspections, and Mr. Gott, a pianist on the County staff, who arranged a recital for the 22nd of April. The recital proved to be excellent, thoroughly enjoyed by the children, and a splendid example of the 'fringe benefits' of the County's educational system.

On April the 17th, the central heating was turned off as the builders need at least a fortnight to replace the piping system in the old building. A spell of very cold weather made it necessary for Mr. Lockley of the F.E. Centre to bring two convector heaters for use in the school. At the end of April, the builders' need to work in the Infants classroom frequently made it necessary to combine classes in what other space was available. At other times, extended games lessons in the field were necessary to keep children warm and active when their classrooms were not available. On April the 27th, the electricity circuits fused, thus no heat nor school television broadcasts were available. These difficulties, particularly with the heating, persisted for many days. Heating was finally restored on May the 1st. Spirits were restored somewhat among the staff by the excellent news on April 30th that a new teacher, Miss J.M. de P. Hay, had been appointed to take over the Infants class on a permanent basis from September. This was a great relief to me, as although excellent work had been carried out with the Infants by Mrs. Morphet, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Kinder and others at various times during the school year the lack of continuity was having an adverse effect on the progress of the children.

From May the 4th, the builders took over the school kitchen to carry out the necessary alterations, and once again container meals were brought from Settle with Mrs. May and Mrs. Thistlethwaite serving them to the children. From the 4th of May, the work of the school was completely disrupted for a fortnight by a pneumatic drill and compressor which was being used inside the building to break up old floor surfaces. This was without doubt one of the worst periods of the whole year. Lessons were held outdoors whenever weather permitted, and many children were absent with headaches which were apparently caused by the noise and the dust. When the drilling finished, children had to be kept out of the main corridor as barrows of wet cement were constantly being wheeled through. On May the 22nd, the school closed, thankfully, for the half-term and Spring holiday.

On May the 28th, Mr. Waterhouse, from the Clerk of Works Dept. at Wakefield, approved the use of the two new classrooms in

their undecorated state as temporary accommodation for the two Junior classes after the Spring holiday. On June the 1st, school re-opened. The builders placed a partition between the old and new blocks, and school meals were served in cramped conditions in the new stair-well and eaten in the classrooms. All official visitors from the L.E.A. recognised the difficulties, offered sympathy and thanked the staff for coping so well.

As the end of the rebuilding was in sight, it was decided to go ahead with the idea to form a Parents' & Teachers' Association, which would really come into its own when the new school was ready. A meeting was held at the school on the evening of the 3rd of June, and a P.T.A. was formed with the Headmaster as Chairman, Mrs. Hill as Secretary and Mrs. Alderson as Treasurer. I am certain that this organisation will be good for the school, and will prove to be the meeting ground between teachers and parents for which we have looked for so long.

Miss J.P. Inrie, Senior Adviser from the LEA, visited the school on June the 22nd and gave valuable advice on the ordering of new equipment. She expressed herself as very pleased with the work that had been done in the school by children and staff despite the adverse conditions and complimented us on our cheerfulness.

On June the 24th, which was an occasional holiday granted by the Managers, the Annual School Trip took place. 40 children were taken to Chester Zoo by MesDames Morphet, Graham, Clark, Brinley, Hill and May and the Headmaster, leaving by coach at 8.15 a.m. and returning to the village at 9.20 p.m. It was a most enjoyable and instructive day, rounded off by a tea at the Zoo which was chosen with the children's tastes in mind!

Visitors at the end of the month included Mr. Grimoldby, who called to discuss some attendance records which I had brought to his notice, and Mr. Moyer, Rural Studies Adviser from the LEA, who advised on new Rural Studies equipment, which we hope will include greenhouse, shed and garden tools among other things. On July the 9th, 8 musicians of the LEA's strings group gave a recital at the school which the children enjoyed very much and from which they learned a great deal. This is the kind of experience which I welcome for them.

The demolition of the remaining outbuildings on July the 13th, followed by a large delivery of new stock on July the 14th, meant that the classroom being used by Class J2 had to be given up for use as storage space. For the remainder of the term, both Junior classes were combined in the J1 classroom. Hard work and improvisation, particularly by Mrs. Morphet, saved the situation from becoming impossible. At the end of this final week, staff and children busied themselves with packing up stock, moving furniture and generally making the building ready for the decorators who were to take over all the rooms as soon as the holiday began. On the last day of term, school photographs were taken. At the end of the day, a bouquet was presented to Mrs. Graham by the children and she was thanked for all her hard work and forbearance during the term she had spent with us. At 3.30 p.m., school closed on the most chaotic year any of the staff could remember.

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

When school re-opened on September the 1st, we were very disappointed to find that the rebuilding was nowhere near finished. No classroom was completely ready and staff room, stores, staff lavatories, hall and kitchen were all unfinished. Many were unusable. Less than half of the new furniture had arrived and all stock remained in tea chests and boxes as there was nowhere to put it if it was unpacked. It was most unfortunate that Miss Hay should start her teaching career under such conditions but she coped very well. Admission policy now reverted to taking the nearly-fives, and seven new infants were admitted. The school roll was 63, with 23 infants, 20 in J1 and 20 in J2. Six children had left on transfer to the High School.

School dinners were again in containers from Settle and had to be served in J2 classroom as the decorators were in the hall. Early September proved to be as difficult as any period in the previous year as the school was filled with decorators, joiners and others who constantly required access to rooms which were being used by the school. The old desks were removed, most of them to Settle CE School, during the first two weeks. Rainwater leaked through the new windowbay roof in J2 classroom and damaged new library books and a new wooden table. During the weekend of September 12th and 13th, the windowbay ceiling collapsed and the bay has since been unusable.

The School Dentist inspected the teeth of all the children on September the 9th, fitting himself into the hall among the decorators. It appears that a large proportion of our children require dental treatment.

On September the 25th, 150 new chairs arrived and on that same afternoon the Divisional Office staff arranged the removal of all the old pattern chairs. The floor tiler finally completed his work, and the Assistant Supervisor of Caretakers from Wakefield arrived to look at the building and to give me valuable advice on the requisitioning of new cleaning materials and equipment. Both old woodwork benches and one of the old swivel type blackboards were removed from the premises by representatives of the LEA. The hall floor had been sanded and re-sealed, and on the 28th of September it was treated with water polish by the caretaker and now looks most attractive. At the end of the month most of the old pattern school meals furniture was removed from the premises and the school at last began to look as though it was almost ready.

The Reverend William Ruck, Vicar of Ingleton, carried out the Annual Diocesan Visit to the school on September the 30th. He was able to spend about 20 minutes with each class, to talk with the staff and to have a discussion with me after school. It was a most useful and enjoyable event, and I was able to explain the variety of Religious Education teaching which Class J2 are now able to have, with our own Vicar's lessons, those taken by Mrs. Clark based on the agreed syllabus and those taken by me, based on the Diocesan Syllabus and the themes of our Morning Services.

On October the 1st came the happy occasion when representatives of the Managers, the builders and the LEA inspected the school and pronounced it finished, subject to an agreed defects list which I understand will be corrected before and during the half-term holiday. Now is the time when we can begin to appreciate the benefits which have resulted from the difficulties of the past year.

GENERAL REMARKS

This unusually long report has been drafted with the intention of allowing the Managers to, as it were, taste the flavour of the past year. It has not been a year for which I would claim any academic distinction, as conditions have made continuity of teaching impossible. Nevertheless, the education of our children has been carried out to the very best ability of the staff and the children have suffered as little as possible. I wish to pay deep tribute to all members of staff; to the teachers for their unflinching cheerfulness and hard work whatever the conditions; to the school meals staff for coping so well with a bewildering variety of conditions from week to week; to the caretaker for maintaining his high standards no matter how much extra dirt and work were caused by the rebuilding. I would also like to thank the members of the LEA staff at both the Skipton and the Wakefield offices for dealing competently and sympathetically with the enormous number of letters and telephone calls they have received from us during the year.

.....Headmaster. 3rd Oct. 1970.