

Headmaster's Report to the Managers of  
Horton-in-Ribblesdale Church of England School for the  
School Year 1973/1974

To the Chairmen of the School Managers,

Sir,

It is my pleasure to report to you and your colleagues on the affairs and condition of the school under the following headings :-

Staff : Again the school has been fortunate in that there have been no changes in the membership of the full-time staff.

Mrs Morphet again had a class of 27 children which is a large number when one bears in mind the wide age range and even wider ability range that she has to cope with. She has, however, continued very successfully to teach her class using the integrated day approach dealing with her children primarily as individuals rather than as members of a class or age group. I think it should also be recorded that Mrs Morphet has continued to be of great help to me as headteacher doing many small jobs which would normally fall to a deputy headteacher in schools which are a little bigger than ours. She has also been extremely helpful in obtaining for the school such as wood for woodwork, cotton reels for craft, etc. which have come in very useful during the year. items

Miss Hay has continued to tackle the job of teaching our infants with devotion and dedication, spending many hours before and after school working in her class. There were seven new entrants for Miss Hay to get used to school ways during the year.

Last September Mrs Harding started work as our part-time teacher. She settled in quickly to her work here. Part of her time is spent taking the Top Junior Class in which she has responsibility for English and P.E. as well as helping with Maths. She spends the rest of her 9 hours a week taking small groups for reading. During the year the Education Authority agreed that Mrs Harding should have an extra  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours so that she could give special help to a pupil of ours who has special learning difficulties. I have been very impressed with the way in which Mrs. Harding has tackled this work.

Mrs. Armstrong had to temporarily give up her Non-teaching Assistant Post in order to have her baby. Mrs. M. Metcalfe our secretary temporarily took over the post till the end of the school year. Mrs. Metcalfe continued her work as our school secretary when she took over the Non-teaching Assistant's post. Mrs Metcalfe was off ill for a few days during the year. It was during her absence that I realised how invaluable her work is here as I found myself bogged down with a hundred and one small things that seemed needing attention.

Mrs. J. Lund, who started work as the school caretaker just before the start of the last school year, has continued to keep the school extremely clean working away conscientiously at all the nooks and crannies which are so easily missed. It is a great pity that the West Riding Education Authority were not able to put washable paint on the corridor and hall walls before we went out of that authority. Had this been done it would have enabled Mrs Lund to have this school looking as immaculate as some of the neighbouring schools wh~~ose~~ caretakers are fortunate enough to have walls with washable paint on. I raised this matter with a North Yorkshire building inspector who came to visit our school the other day. He said he would look into the matter. ||

Mrs. Barker has continued to produce first class meals from our kitchen.

The School Building : As stated above the hall and corridors need paint which can be easily washed down.

The damp now seems to have stopped coming into the Top Junior Classroom. Large areas remain, however, where the paint has peeled off.

The ceiling fell in in the corridor adjoining the hall. This was repaired soon afterwards.

The water pump on the boiler burnt out twice during the year leaving the older end of the school unheated.

An extractor fan was put in the kitchen in order to try and extract the steam from the kitchen when the ladies there are washing up.

During the last few days I have noticed that a crack in the Infant Classroom seems to have widened. During the holidays a window above the door was broken in such a way that slight structural movement may be indicated.

School Policy : As before my policy at this school has been based on the need to help and care for the needs and difficulties of children as individuals rather than as members of an age group or a class. This means that, in practice, for much of the time the children work as individuals or in small groups. The children's work and their attitude to school continue to encourage myself and the other members of my staff that this policy is the right way forward in a school such as this one.

Number on roll : We started the year with 71 children on roll and ended with 77 on roll having reached 78 at one time during the year. Of the 71 children at the beginning of the year 40 were girls.

General : Continuing my policy of giving our children as wide an experience as possible visits were arranged to the White Scar Caves, Victoria Cave, York Castle Museum, York City Walls and the Minister. The Top Junior children were also taken on an expedition up Peny-ghent. Earlier in the year they went up Brackentbottom Scar to study an old lime-kiln and to the Brantsgill Head to study the cave and flora there. Various other activities involving the study of things nearer the school such as the local beck, the church, etc., were organized.

In order to broaden our children's social experience football and rounders matches were organized against Austwick C of E School.

The Sibanda family project went extremely well with the children raising £51 for the family of orphans on the Gwaai Reserve in Rhodesia.

The Annual School Christmas Party went off very well with all the children receiving presents which were bought out of P.T.A. funds. The P.T.A. annual sale raised £101 for the school funds which has enabled me to buy some extra books and items of equipment.

In addition to the normal two school church services a term, as an experiment, a service was held in school to which parents were invited. This was very successful and we look forward to our Vicar coming in to take more such services during the coming year. We are very grateful to our Vicar for taking Assembly once a week in school.

During the previous school year as an experiment we held for the first time in many years a school sports afternoon. This was very successfully repeated this year with the emphasis being laid on running for the success of the team rather than on individual achievement.

Finally, may I say that I hope that you, Mr. Chairman and the Managers find this report helpful and comprehensive. I thank you for all your help and interest in the school and take this opportunity to say that you and your fellow Managers will always be very welcome to visit this school whether the reasons be official or social.

*for H. Martin*

(Headmaster)