

School days are the best days
of your life!

DRAYTON

★ PARK ★

SCHOOL-

ITS HISTORY



by Louisa. Anderson

INTRODUCTION TO MY PERSONAL TOPIC ON: THE HISTORY OF DRAYTON PARK SCHOOL.

My personal topic is on The History of Drayton park School. I chose it partly because i really, really like history, and partly because i would like to learn about my School's past before i leave. I would be hoping to find out about how the School survived the Second world war, when it was founded, how Schools started and lots more. I would write to previous teachers and heads of this school, and present ones. I would also write to the Department of Education and other companies like that. I hope to learn a lot by this topic, and to enjoy it.

By Louisa.

Well done, Louisa
- I hope that
you enjoy it!

The Founding of Drayton Park School.

What is now Drayton Park School was founded in 1860 as Highbury Wesleyan School for boys and girls in Holloway Road. At that time there were: 58 boys and 27 girls, but by 1871 the numbers had risen up to: 161 boys, 135 girls and 132 infants. In 1865 the building of a new school was begun, and this was taken over by the council in 1913. It became Drayton Park School in 1906 and then was replaced by a new school on the present site in 1927, for 240 Junior Mixed and 260 infants. It re-opened on 23 August 1927.* The school had a "rather smart uniform in 2 shades.

es of blue" until parents decided
against in the 60's and away it
went, along with chanting times
tables and Saturday morning
football.



1938

been out of the question. Parents meetings were held in the infants hall at 3pm/7pm. The parents were most helpful when the scheme for the evacuation of children was explained to them. About a dozen children were being kept in London by their parents: all the others were being sent into the country or being evacuated with the school. The ground floor was used on Sept 28th, 1938 as a distributing station for gas masks & the infants shared our floor using the hall & two rooms. The children have been exceedingly good, and there has been an atmosphere of peace rather than war in these departments. All the members of the staff have worked well & have been most helpful under trying circumstances. During the international football matches at the Arsenal & numerous traffic on the local roads school hours were changed ~~to~~ 1.30 pm to 3.40 pm, afternoon sessions.

Feb 1st 1939

Opened afternoon school at 1.30pm in order to avoid traffic for football matches at the Arsenal grounds.

Feb 2nd

Used double sessions to avoid the traffic - due to football matches on the Arsenal grounds.

Feb 20th

Opened afternoon school at 1.30 and dismissed at 3.50pm to avoid the traffic due to Cup tie football match on the Arsenal grounds.

June 16th

Large distribution by C. J. Steane, J. G. Crumman of Managers. ~~See above~~ songs & dances by the children.

June 22nd (Thursday)

Had news that Gwen Hammond, R. Babbs, W. Smith had been awarded Junior County Scholarships.

Aug 26th

Saturday. School opened at 9 am & remained open all day for preparations to be made for the evacuation of children in case of need. All members of the staff attended to give

27thAug 28th

advice to parents concerning evacuation. School opened & all children being evacuated with us packed with gas masks & equipment. Gas masks were filled & labels re distributed & ties on.

Aug 29thAug 31st

School again opened for children evacuees. Had news that "evacuation to commence tomorrow Friday".

Here, in this Log entry for 1938 it shows that the children were evacuated with gas masks and labels. Also, I have found out that they were evacuated to Brockbourne and Herts in 1939 and that Drayton Park reopened in 1945.

Islington Gazette.
28.1.62.

DRAYTON PARK SCHOOL

In a report submitted at this week's meeting of the L.C.C. Education Committee, the staff sub-committee stated:

"Consequent upon the closure of William Forster county primary school, Islington, at the end of the summer term 1961, the roll of Drayton Park county primary school increased from 176 in September, 1960, to 203 in September, 1961. A further increase to 240 is expected by the year 1965 and we consider that, in accordance with the Burnham Report, the school should be regarded as reorganised by enlargement from and including September 1, 1961. On reorganisation the headship is deemed to be vacant and the managers of Drayton Park school have recommended the appointment of Mrs. M. E. Needham, the present headmistress, as headmistress of the reorganised school, which will be raised from group II to group III."

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27A

1.6

26/1/62

Inspectors Report

This report was written in 1952 and I think that from the inspectors point of view, Drayton Park School has changed a lot for the better.

This is another newspaper cutting from 1962, about the rise in the numbers of children between 1960 & 1961. The numbers increased in a year by about 27.

INFANTS' DEPARTMENT

This Department occupies the ground floor rooms of a building comparatively modern in design dating back to 1927. The accommodation consists of six classrooms, a hall, a staff-room, a Head Mistress' room, a lavatory and w.c. for the staff, one small w.c. for the youngest children, and generous cloak-room and stock-room provision. In the hall, the presence of the usual furniture, stacked tables and benches and a high, bulky stage erected by the Parents' Association has reduced the area available to the children on ground level by exactly one third, to no more than approximately 800 square feet. Classrooms are small and appear to be crowded with children and equipment; the usual activity connected with modern infants' teaching takes place in the hall and classes use the apparatus and materials in turn at fixed times during the week. French windows provide easy access to the playgrounds from all six classrooms and though the latter are bright by natural light, higher wattage bulbs are desirable to improve artificial lighting.

There is an absence of paint outside and of a variety of colour inside the building but much is done to brighten it with suitable pictures and colourful paintings done by the children. The value of well arranged flowers in making the classrooms attractive has been fully realised by both the Head Mistress and her staff.

The Department is now well furnished and the presence of nesting tables and chairs in some rooms allows space for movement. There is no shortage or restriction of equipment for the Head Mistress has spared neither time nor effort in providing suitable materials for all classes. Special mention should be made of the reading books, for they are well chosen, suitable and attractive.

The 226 boys and girls of ages from five to seven are divided strictly according to age into six classes: most live within a comparatively short distance of School. Each year about 70 children on reaching the age of seven are transferred to the Junior Mixed Department which occupies the first floor of the building. The Infants attend morning school between 9.30 and 12.55, and in the afternoon between 2.0 and 3.30.

There is very close co-operation between the Head Mistresses of the two Department and between the staff and the parents, who take an exceptional interest in the progress and well-being of the boys and girls.

The Head Mistress who was appointed in 1943, is energetic, lively and purposeful. She is assisted by a staff of six Mistresses all of whom are keen and hard-working. Their experience varies from many years to a few months; most have attended recent courses on subjects of interest to them; they work as a team and more than one younger teacher shows good promise. It is not surprising therefore that throughout the Department the children are responsive, live together happily and are interested in their occupations.

Over half the Department stay at school for the mid-day meal. The Head Mistress has provided the children with individual towels and with the assistance of the women helpers is giving a social training of real value. The food is cooked in a kitchen on the site and is served in the Infants' hall. On the days of the Inspection the meals were well-cooked and appetising.

The Department makes the fullest use of a large and airy asphalt playground which it shares with the Junior Mixed Department. Each class has at least two periods of Physical Education outside and in any but wet weather the children enjoy a variety of exercises providing a suitable outlet for their energies; other periods are arranged for indoors. The two classes of oldest children take the broadest range of music and movement in the hall, and although they work in a small space they enjoy the exercises. The younger Mistresses are especially to be commended on lively and imaginative lessons which were seen.

The children with few exceptions speak well. They learn a number of rhymes and plays which they recite clearly and with enthusiasm: some teachers encourage the recitation of stories. The singing also is characterised by clear diction and tone. Because of the good supply of reading material, the children's innate intelligence and the Head Mistress' firm faith in her own reading method, the standard reached by the majority of children is rather above the average in reading. Children of slower development are keen and are progressing. W...

Islington Gazette
17.7.64.

17

Y A 130
5026.

6.6.17.7.64.

ISLINGTON

NEW LOOK SCHOOLS...

And couple on the way

STATE education in Islington and Finsbury received a big boost this week with the L.C.C.'s announcement of two new schools and a facelift for three others.

Wednesday's meeting of the county council approved the Education Committee's estimates of £855,290 for the schemes.

The two new schools will be at Edward Square, Islington, and Baltic Street, Finsbury.

At Edward Square there will be a new Roman Catholic Primary School—the Blessed Sacrament School—catering for 280 mixed pupils. The Secretary of State for Education has agreed to erect the school out-

side the major building programme.

Already architects have drawn up a first stage scheme; the main features of which are a hall, four classrooms, dining space, a kitchen, a medical inspection room and administrative offices. Total estimated cost is £56,820 of which the L.C.C. will have to provide £10,995.

Over the border in Finsbury a new primary and nursery school is planned on the site of the old City of London day college.

The council has now bought a further site in Hatfield Street and Basterfield Street at a cost of £29,000. The two sites will be merged and plans for the new school announced later.

Four Islington schools will be modernised. They are the Archway Secondary School, the Drayton Park Primary School, the Highbury School and the Barnsbury School for Boys.

Archway School will have its playground levelled and resurfaced at a cost of £4,500. In the past four years the school has had two new floors built on to it at a cost of £325,980.

A new kitchen, classrooms and a library are planned for Drayton Park School at a cost of £92,150. The school will also be redecorated.

The council has had to revise its estimate for the rebuilding of Highbury School and Barnsbury School for Boys announced a year ago. Increased cost of labour and building materials, and the provision of further education and youth-service accommodation will send the bill up from

deemed to be vacant managers of Drayton E have recommended the ment of Mrs. M. E. No present headmistress, mistress of the reorgani which will be raised f II to group III". Y

1.6
26/1/6

ere is a newspaper cutting from
the Islington Gazette also
t new schools being built, and
d schools being refurbished (Dray-
n Park is mentioned near the
bottom).

This newspaper cutting is from 1971, when Islington council decided to dis-
obey the governments decision to stop
free milk in schools. Drayton Park school
wrote to the mayor of Islington saying
that children should be given milk, as
some children couldnt afford milk at
home, and therefore wouldnt get enough
nourishment. So Islington Council took
a small amount of money out of each
households rates.

Kids back on milky way!

By CHRIS GOODALL

Islington children aged between seven and 11 should soon be drinking milk at school again.

Tonight's meeting of the council's policy committee is expected to confirm Thursday's decision of the health committee to defy the Government and pay for milk from the rates.

Members of the health committee agreed by eight votes to one to recommend the use of the council's powers under section six of the Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963 to foot the milk bill.

Section six gives a council power to use the product of an old penny rate "for any purpose which in their opinion is in the interests of their area or its inhabitants."

Before its meeting the health committee considered counsel's opinion obtained by the London Borough's Association on the availability of legal powers, and a report prepared by Islington's director of public health, Dr Carl Burns (see "Health chief warns"—page eight).

Doubts

Counsel's opinion was that to use its powers under section six the council had to satisfy itself there was medical evidence supported by research that milk is beneficial and that the absence of milk could be harmful. It was also necessary for a council to satisfy itself there was a significant risk of children not getting enough milk unless it were provided free of charge.

The committee chairman, Councillor Don Hoodless (Labour), read out a letter sent to the mayor by the staff of Drayton Park Primary School, Highbury, urging the council to pay for milk from the rates.

The only two members of the committee who expressed doubts were Alderman Archie Hull (Conservative) and Dr J. S. Norell, a co-opted member. Dr Norell said he was not convinced by some of the expert evidence on the merits of drinking milk.

"Depriving most children of a third of a pint of milk will not topple them over into malnutrition," he added.

Dr Norell abstained from voting.

Alderman Hull claimed that the committee might be on dangerous ground in paying for the milk from the rates.

Prices

Councillor Gerry Flynn (Labour) said that many families could not afford to buy milk for their children to drink at school.

He declared: "Parents with two or three children at school already paying more for school meals and all the other increased prices won't be able to buy milk."

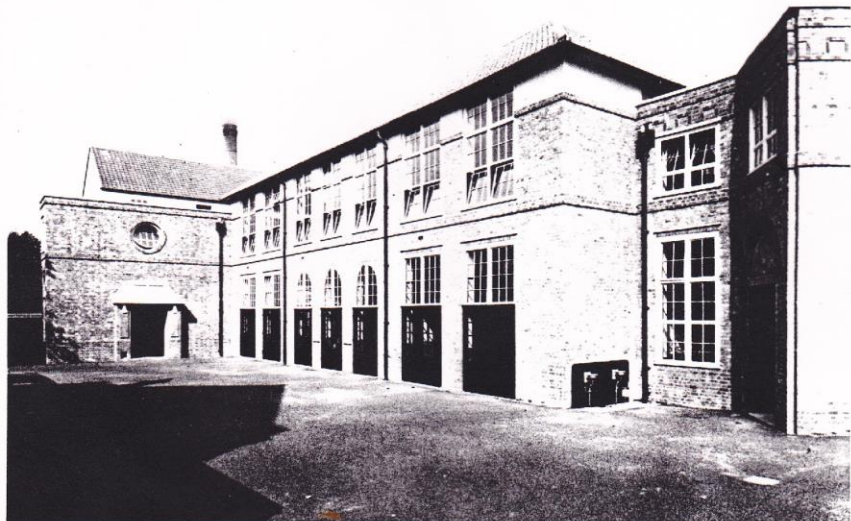
Councillor Bob Redrupp (Labour), vice-chairman of the committee, said the council must pay for the milk in view of the number of children who had to go without a nutritional drink from one evening to lunch-time the following day.



Headmaster Mr Frank Gray and teacher Mrs Beryl Rencontre celebrate the return of free milk with a victory drink for pupils of Drayton Park Primary School.

Picture: Ray Low

This is a photo of little playground



On the 19th April, I went to the Greater London Record Office. There were millions of books and stuff from Drayton Park, but I could only take home some notes. There are copies of the fog entry's further on, but here is a photo of our school sometime around the '20's or '30's.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCILEDUCATION DEPARTMENTCopy of H.M. Inspector's Report.EAST ISLINGTON - DRAYTON PARK L.C.C. SCHOOL

School no.9, 386. Board of Education, Whitehall, London, S.W.

8 December 1908

School visited 25th, 26th and 27th November 1908.

Inspector's Report

BOYS - The boys in this department are now self-restrained and there is no question that their training is sound and sensible. The physical training of the upper classes is particularly praiseworthy and their singing is decidedly above average. In connection with this latter feature it is a pity that the efforts of the boys and their instructor are hampered by the wretched harmonium now in use. A piano is much needed and will be thoroughly appreciated.

GIRLS - The girls are well-mannered and thoroughly enjoy their school life. Some useful "motor" training in the form of modelling and paper moulding has lately been introduced and the drawing schemes have been usefully revised.

The time now applied to Grammar would be more profitably expended on a general training in the use of their mother tongue and, in the place of mere physical detail, it should be possible to apply more human interest to the Geography lessons.

No musical instrument has been provided for this department and a piano is required both for marching in and out of school and for the singing lessons.

INFANTS - This is a capital department for infants. The methods are modern and the children are kept alert and happy. The drawing and the modelling are especially good and the best use is made of the limited accommodation for games. The latter part of the training is rendered needlessly difficult by the presence of a number of old desks which occupy valuable space in the covered playground. These should be removed at once as, in the absence of a hall, this space is invaluable to both the Girls' and the Infants' departments, especially during the winter.

ALL DEPARTMENTS - It would appear that the bell which is used as a signal for fire drill is not always heard, especially in the Girls' and the Infants' departments. Steps should be taken to render the signal effective.

MY LIFE AT DRAYTON PARK

I came to Drayton Park in 1984 when I was 4 years old and started in the nursery. My first teachers were Tina and Wendy. Since then I've been taught by: Maggie Terry, Mrs McLeish, Shelly Spencer, Richard Dunn, and Marie McCartney, who is my teacher at the moment. I reckon I've been very lucky, because they were all very good teachers, and I liked them all.

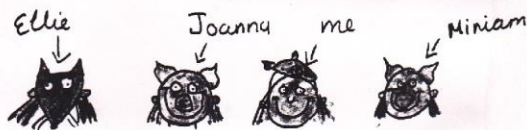


me
dressed
up as a
cat!!

a "Cat Day" in the nursery.

I shall be leaving this summer and here are some of my good memories:

I remember when the boat was being installed, and for it, we had to raise money for a 'Fun Run', around Highbury fields. I also remember doing marbling and t-shirt printing with Mrs McLeish. Doing school plays was fun; one time in the reception we did a play of the 3 little pigs, me, Joanna and Miriam were the pigs and Ellie was the wolf. But the whole time I had my mask



on top of my head! I only found out later when Maggie told me!! I have had a wonderful time at Drayton Park and I will be very sorry to leave. But Louisa what a really fantastic topic book, Louisa. You should be really proud of it and I hope that you enjoyed doing it.