

EXTRACTS FROM THE DRAYTON PARK SCHOOL LOG BOOK

23 Aug 1927	The School was opened on Tuesday August 23 rd 1927 the children being transferred from the old building, and the whole reorganised from three to two departments 1 Senior Mixed 2 Junior Mixed & Infants
10 Dec 1927	Ernest Dowsett (Class 1) whilst playing for the school in a league match against St Mary's Little Cross Street fell & fractured his leg. Mr Morgan was with the school team and witnessed the accident. An ambulance was sent for and the boy was conveyed to the Gt Northern Hospital.
12 Dec 1927	Visited the boy's parents to convey the sympathy of the School. I also saw the boy who appeared fairly cheerful under the circumstances.
23 Feb 1928	The School was officially opened by Dame Jessie Wilton Phipps at 6pm. There were also present Captain Cobb LCC, ... , Dr Hayward (Council Inspector), the Mayor & Mayoress of Islington & others. Mr Philpott Chairman of Managers was in the chair. Musical and other items were given by scholars of the two departments. After inspecting the building the visitors were entertained by the Headmistress & Headmaster. The two halls were beautifully decorated by the Parks Dept of the L.C.C. under the direction of Mr Giles
4 Sept 1928	Mrs Faire came up to complain of Mrs Williams treatment of her daughter Alice who has been ill. She alleges that the cookery teacher passed remarks about the girl's personal appearance. I wrote informing Mrs Williams of the complaint
25 April 1929	Mr Aldwinckle kindly had the football team, Mr Morgan (the Sports Master) and the Headmaster to tea & afterwards took them to Maskelyne's – a very enjoyable evening. This was to commemorate the winning of the Challenge Cup by the football team.
2 Oct 1929	Albert Leonard reported that he had swallowed a piece of blacklead pencil during the play time (3-3.10pm). Mr Morgan took him to the Gt Northern Hospital where Dr Adrain examined him, gave him advice as to diet, & sent him back to school.
22 Oct 1929	A.A.R. Chenappa – an Indian professor – gave a lecture on manners & customs of the people of India.
25 Oct 1929	Mr Aldwinckle (father of Mr Aldwinckle – one of the Managers & Hon. Secretary of the C. Committee) has presented the School with a new Union Jack flag on a staff.
17 Jan 1930	The attendance for the School being 96% the children were dismissed from the hall at 4.15pm
21 Jan 1930	Received communication that Doris E Hawkins, Kathleen E Phillips and Thomas O Bellcliff had been provisionally awarded Junior Council Scholarships. At 10.50 classes IB, II & III were assembled in the Practical Room to hear the King's speech of welcome to the delegates at the Naval Conference.
23 May 1930	Empire Day was celebrated in the School. The children assembled in the hall, Mr Morgan gave a very interesting talk on the Empire, and the duty of each child to "play fair". Patriotic songs were given, the Flag saluted, and the proceedings finished with the National Anthem & three cheers for the King.
2 Oct 1930	Mr Morgan & Miss Jackson with forty pupils paid an Educational Visit to the Imperial Institute for a lecture on Africa starting at 2.15pm
13 July 1931	Dismissed the School at 4.10pm in order to prepare for a jumble sale to obtain funds for the School
2 Dec 1931	Mr Hewitt & Mr Tolfe (Chairman & Secretary of the Islington Schools Swimming Association) came & presented the Dove Bowl which has been won by the Junior Girls
20 Dec 1932	An open afternoon for Parents – about 170 present. The children performed their Christmas play "Toad of Toad Hall"
16 June 1933	The School has been entered during the night and a silver cup, Dove Bowl (won for swimming) and four bunches of keys were missing.
12 Sept 1933	Received information from the Royal College of Music that Constance Bignell has been awarded a Junior Exhibition at the College for pianoforte playing

18 June 1934	Sent the children down for organised games (cricket & rounders) at 3.50pm as the temperature was so high in the school
14 Nov 1934	Double sessions – in order to avoid the general amount of traffic in consequence of the International Match at the Arsenal
23 Jan 1935	Owing to the distracting noise from Western's Laundry the timetable was suspended in Rooms D, E & F. The Chief Engineer from Westerns came in & said he would do his best to lessen the noise
21 Jan 1936	Heard the news of the death of King George. At morning assembly I read the King's Jubilee message & the service concluded with God Save the King
30 Sept 1938	Owing to the crisis in the country ordinary work has been out of the question. Parents meetings were held in the Infants' Hall at 3pm and 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 28 th and 29 th as a distributing station for gas masks, and the infants shared one 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.
28 Aug 1939	School opened & all children being evacuated with us paraded with gas masks & equipment. Gas masks were fitted & labels distributed & tied on.
21 Aug 1939	Had news that evacuation to commence tomorrow Friday
8 Jan 1945	Bomb incident in near vicinity. No school casualties reported. School meals taken in Rest Centre as usual.
5 Mar 1945	Two alerts sounded during a.m session. On both occasions all children were in shelters within just over a minute from warning.
3 July 1946	Maypole Dance Team went to Wembley for rehearsal youth display
6 July 1946	Dance Team participated in youth rally at Wembley Stadium
2 Sept 1946	Re-opened. School annex opened in the 'Forster' LCC school – three classes housed there and three members of the staff seconded for the work. Five classes remain here – school roll 300. Parents reactions to opening of annex were in the main quite favourable.
31 Jan 1947	Marionette show given by Mercury Theatre Co.
23 Feb 1949	Forster annex made a separate unit
8 Mar 1950	Music recital given by students of Royal Academy in hall
2 Feb 1952	A party of girls accompanied Miss Sharp, Mr Morgan, Mr Chester and me to Covent Garden Opera House to see "The Sleeping Princess"
6 Feb 1952	The death of His Majesty the King was announced to the assembled school. We had assembled at 11am to hear a cello & piano recital (under the auspices of the LCC). The recital was a success, the children giving absolute attention. pm Dental inspections of half of the school. 138 chn examined; 54 healthy; 75 need fillings & 9 extractions. 45 parents came
4 Mar 1952	Flower Lovers' League – the children brought their daffodils today for judging by the FLL representative. 105 pots arrived

30 Jan 1953	Mrs Coffenburg gave a talk, illustrated by lantern, on Australia. The four top classes were present & they thoroughly enjoyed the talk & Mrs Coffenburg's charming personality
21 May 1953	The Rev A Goodwin Hudson came to take a Coronation Assembly & afterwards gave a talk on the Regalia, etc. At the same ceremony, Mrs Evans, our Chairman of the Managers, distributed the souvenir pencils given by the LCC & the children also received a coronation tin of chocolates from the Borough Council. 9 children, with Mr Robinson, will attend the Coronation procession on 2 nd June. Mr Robinson has made admirable preparations.
11 June 1953	The whole school went to see "Elizabeth is Queen" at the Savoy Cinema. This was part of the Borough Council's treat.
1 Dec 1953	Whole school (with exception of bottom class) went to see the Everest Picture at the Savoy Cinema
18 Dec 1953	Broke up for Christmas, after a happy & pleasant week – chn's own concert, the Gas Boards Films, a small gift to each child from the staff & on Friday pm the Carol Service
9 July 1954	31 children obtained grammar school passes this year; Judith Penn, Marie Gaunt & Geoffrey Hunt – Christ's Hospital papers. Marie Gaunt passed final tests & will go to Christ's in September. 15 central places; 31 secondary modern. The children fan out into 23 different schools.
13 July 1954	Flower Lovers' League – nasturtium display
23 July 1954	House Shield won by St George House (Red) Sports' Shield won by St Patrick House (Green) Kenneth Riggall won Diving Championship at local swimming gala
30 Apr 1958	Tape Recorder which we have had for one term & enjoyed – returned to Stockwell
18 Nov 1958	Lecture by Miss Ashby on "Life in Figi" – most interesting
4 Dec 1958	News that an exhibition of our paintings was being held in Tokio
10 Mar 1959	Visit from French gentleman, Monsieur d'Epée
1 May 1959	The London Children's Theatre Co. gave us "The Stranger"
15 Oct 1959	Police demonstration – Road Safety
29 Mar 1960	Daffodil display Tape Recorder on loan for one term
21 Oct 1960	New projector!
Jan 1961	Building operations this term: demolition started; Boys' Cloakroom no longer available; back stairs being used only for boys to have access to toilets; clothes racks in three rooms
6 June 1961	Miss Beaumont from R.S.P.C.A. – lecture. 144 children joined the 'Animal Defender' League
3 July 1961	Polio session – about 100+ children received 4 th 'jab'
16 Sept 1963	Whole school had foot, hands & head inspection
17 Oct 1963	Harvest Festival. Large quantities of gifts despatched to Home for Incurable Invalids
4 Nov 1963	Meeting with D.O. and D.I. to inspect and report upon new plans for improvement of school building. Reported that the smallness of school hall seriously affects education of children, and by adding extra classrooms the problem will be greater. Seems little likelihood of obtaining bigger hall because it involves altering roof.
22 Nov 1963	School burgled during night. Class 4H & 3B ransacked. Desk severely damaged & approx 5/- stolen. Det. Sgt. Allen C.I.D. investigated approx 11.15am
16 Dec 1963	North Thames Gas Board gave film show on gas
17 Dec 1963	Barnsbury Boys School Brass Band gave concert of Christmas Carols to whole school

22 Jan 1964	Test drilling began in the girls' playground preparatory to new wing
28 Feb 1964	Judging of daffodil show by Mrs Fowler. Service of flowers held at assembly
4 Mar 1964	Harold Elvin, author, gave talk to whole school on "Four thousand miles through India". Slides were shown but talk was unsatisfactory
7 Mar 1964	43 children with Mr Brereton, Miss Collins, Miss Lewis left at 9.30am in two coaches for two weeks stay at Marchant Hill Rural Centre
25 April 1964	Forty boys and 10 adults to Wembley. Boys' International Football Match. England v Germany
31 Aug 1964	The school could not re-open today due to chaotic state of the school. No part of the schedule for the summer holidays has been completed. Half demolition has been done. A start only made on rewiring. The hut to accommodate two classes only just been assembled. Fire escape half complete. Playgrounds ripped up and not re-laid. Children to assemble on Wed.
1 Sept 1964	Gas main fractured – hurried repairs being done. School is on temporary electric circuit. Frantic rush to get hut completed.
2 Sept 1964	School re-opened to-day. One class in Swift Plan hut in playground. Room A used as staff room
4 Sept 1964	End of week. Noise has been heavy under Room D. Some children complained. Demolition of wing also disturbing with drills active and dumpers exploding masonry into trucks
9 Sept 1964	Building contractors commenced drilling of foundations. Terrific noise reverberated throughout whole school. Some work interrupted
30 Sept 1964	Mr F O Bowker gave talk and showed transparencies of the Canadian Rockies. Excellent pictures but poor commentary
2 Oct 1964	Hand, hair and foot inspection of school. 4 children with nits. Many children with athlete's foot
23 Oct 1964	Mr Todd (Architect) discussed colour scheme of class-rooms when painting begins. The term has constantly been interrupted by classes moving from one room to another to enable improvements to the building being carried out
26 Nov 1964	Mrs Dawes & Mr Gray with Class 2D to London Planetarium
2 Apr 1965	Mr Thomas R.S.P.C.A. gave lecture on care of pets
3 June 1965	35 children & 3 teachers at Hackney Power Station. Excellent behaviour
18 June 1965	Prelim Gala of London S.A. Championships. Two children in free style: Melanie Rodosthenou, Dean Sharp. Susan Brooks in London Diving Championships
22 July 1965	Site meeting in infants school to report progress being made on the new wing. Some rooms will be ready for use by the end of the summer holidays
1 Sept 1965	School re-opened. 80 infants admitted. Schedule of building new wing far behind. Head in chair store. Class 2B moved to Room N. Staff in M.I. Room. Whole school still in derelict state.
21 Oct 1965	Class 3I at London Museum + Mrs Ireland & Mrs Rencontre. Open evening for parents. Not one complaint.
4 Nov 1965	School photographer for whole school
7 Dec 1965	Miss McAvoy, Inspector of P.E. gave demonstration to teachers using the new P.E. apparatus (Southampton Cane [?]). 40 children from Class 2H used in demonstration
17 Dec 1965	Two performances of Peter Pan, acted by Mrs Ireland's class, given to school in two halves. Imaginative use of Southampton Cane equipment for pirates fighting in the rigging

24 Jan 1966	Mr Cakebread's class moved from hut into the main building
28 Feb 1966	Began meals in own school hall. Two sittings with children sitting at tables set for six
25 Mar 1966	'Rolo and Shandy' (clowns) gave an extraordinarily good performance of Road Safety
20 July 1966	Drayton Park Eisteddfod held from 2pm. Christine Forbes declared Bard for 1966/67
10 Nov 1966	Audiometer tests for reception class & suspected hearing cases
6 Dec 1966	Piere the Clown in both Infants & Juniors for National Dental Week
7 Dec 1967	Mr Sinclair (Commonwealth Institute) gave talk to juniors "A market day in Ghana"
9 Mar 1968	45 children & Mr Brereton, Mrs Engell & Mrs Rencontre off to Marchants Hill Rural Centre for two weeks stay
27 Mar 1968	Daffodil judging day
26 June 1968	Swimming gala at Hornsey Baths. Class 3N & 2F to Sidney Webb College to give movement demonstration
11 Sept 1968	Twelve families in new block of flats (Courtney Court)
19 Sept 1968	Mr Angress started recorder groups in school
21 Oct 1968	Class 3D & 3F to Little Angel Theatre for puppet performance of 'Rapunzel'
27 Nov 1968	Class 1R to Natural History Museum. Lecture on prehistoric animals
18 Dec 1968	ITV filmed infants Christmas games for 'Discovering London' programme
23 Jan 1969	Three students from Saffron Walden College for four days to study immigrant problems
6 Feb 1969	Class 1A & 2BL at Town Hall for performance by Joy & Jennifer of Folk Songs
6 Mar 1969	170 parents at evening meeting on 'Teaching of Reading'. Tea & biscuits served
11 Mar 1969	Mr Corkhill from London Symphony Orchestra brought tympani and demonstrated percussion to Class 2BL
29 Mar 1969	School became North London Champions of the seven-a-side soccer competition. Michael Bourne awarded medal for playing for Islington Schools F.A. team
9 July 1969	School closed at 1.45pm for mass meeting of teachers and march
3 Dec 1969	Yugoslav Broadcasting Coy. in school to record song & recorders
5 Dec 1969	Bring & Buy Sale organised by parents – raised £86 for school fund
12 Jan 1970	All teachers (with the exception of Mrs I Davies) on 2 week strike called by the National Union of Teachers
16 Mar 1970	14 infants to Albert & Victoria Museum
4 July 1970	Choir singing on Highbury Fields for Islington Festival
10 Dec 1970	Parents and all connected with school at a Cheese & Wine Party at 7.30pm
3 Mar 1970	'Keymaster' vision machine in school as pilot scheme testing of eyesight for all 5+, 7+ and 9+ children
17 Mar 1971	School closed for the afternoon as most teachers supported I.L.T.A. strike call
20 July 1971	Classes 2BR & 2BL at Mermaid Theatre "Our Circus" by the Leningrad Theatre for Young Spectators
29 Sept 1971	Class 2M to Mermaid Theatre for 'Lights Up'. Class 4RI & Mrs Rands group to Hampstead Heath. Mr Buxton gave talk 4.30-6.00 on 'Puzzles & Games'
14 & 16 Dec	80 children & staff carol singing in neighbouring streets

8 Feb 1972	Seven children & Mr Blunden at London Weekend Television studios recording their views on books
26 Apr 1972	Class 3M – to Bank station on underground, compiling graphs of trains and times
26 May 1972	Miss Ann Sher in school to organise children's theatre on Highbury Fields on a Saturday morning
13 June 1972	Mr Jack Straw, G.L.C. councillor in school
30 June 1972	Mrs Rand's group to silkworm farm at Ayot St Lawrence. Athletics finals at Finsbury Park
9 July 1972	Burglary. H.T. room wrecked. Doors forced open, cabinets forced and about £19.50 stolen. Four classrooms also entered.
20 Nov 1972	School closed – Queen's Silver Wedding Anniversary
23 Nov 1972	School closed pm. Teachers supporting walkout of school in protest at freezing of London Allowance negotiation.
14 & 15 Dec	School play for parents "Aladdin". 7pm and 2pm on Friday
1 Mar 1973	School closed until end of gas workers strike. Parents meeting to arrange school party
8 & 15 Mar	30 children at Country Dance Party at Town Hall
19 Mar 1973	At a staff meeting it was decided to bring the children into school for 1½ hrs per day to set homework and to arrange as many visits out as possible during the school closure.
28 Mar 1973	School re-opened after gas strike
1 May 1973	Boys began swimming at City University Baths. Fire drill – school emptied in 1¼ minutes
13 June 1973	Class 10K to Viking exhibition at Greenwich
16 July 1973	Classes 15B & 14M to Kew Gardens via the River Thames. Film "Never Go With Strangers" shown to junior children
14 Nov 1973	School closed – Wedding of Princess Anne
8 Dec 1973	Parent-teacher party 8pm-11.30pm
29 Jan 1974	The Keskiee Centre bus in playground showing masks, costumes and musical instruments for the coming Islington Carnival
1 Feb 1974	My room wrecked during night. Stop watch taken and filing cabinet broken.
4 Feb 1974	Class 1M & Cookhouse burgled during the weekend
27 Feb 1974	Films on the theme "Keep Britain Tidy" shown to juniors by the Cleansing Dept of Islington Council
29 Apr 1974	Whole school worked "double sessions" to enable teachers to demonstrate in N.U.T. march
29 Oct 1974	Mr Woodruffe & 2 teachers from Schools Council met staff to ask the school to join the Council's project "The Multi-racial School"
12 Feb 1975	Fire Drill. School empty in 1 min 17 sec. Four trainee teachers from Sweden in the school.

Extracts selected by Andrew Myer, Governor, 2016
(who is also responsible for any typographical errors or misreadings of the original teachers' handwriting)