

Winter weather and ailments:
Some Extracts from Eye Area School
Log Book, 1935 -1950

1937

Jan 18th Children commenced gargling their throat re influenza.

Jan 21st Case of measles reported.

Jan 25th Excluded all children who had not had measles. No. present 79 out of 227. PerCent = 34%. Exclusion by order of S.M.O.

Jan 26th Mr Ford (the Headmaster) absent, sick. F. A. Thorpe in charge. Excluded 2 more children on receipt of statements by parents that the children had not had measles. No. present 71 = 31%.

Jan 27th Attendance 65 = 28.6%

Jan 28th Attendance 55 = 24%

Jan 29th [Mr Ford] Returned to duty today. Attendance 48. 20%.

Feb 1st Attendance still low, owing to influenza. 113/227 = 49%.

Feb 19th Attendance has improved and the children seem to be recovering from influenza.

1938

18/12/38 Very cold wind from NE. Freezing hard all day. Many children absent.

20/12/38 Cold continues. Many children absent but v. good considering weather.

22/12/38 Very deep snow. A good attendance though not enough to mark. Some of the children walked from Mellis, Occold and Thorndon to be present. The afternoon was spent in games, and breaking up festivities.

1939

Jan 26th During the last 24 hrs 2.6 ins rain has fallen. Many children unable to be present. Number present am = 58, pm 45 out of 224. Miss Capon and Mr Bird not present. Unable to get through the flood. Received wire from Mr Bird re absence.

This dinner time I received word from Mr Hayward that the water on the Reddingfield Road was rising and he was afraid to wait till 4 to take children home so I let them go at 12.30 pm. Similarly allowed Daisy Pettit, J. Symonds and F Woodrow to go home on the Redgrave Bus via Palgrave as the Wash at Mellis was too dangerous.

Jan 27th Attendance 105/224. This is due to the floods on the Hoxne and Occold Roads which have not subsided yet.

Feb 1st Annie Stammers complained of feeling sick. In view of the case of S.F. (scarlet fever) in school, I sent her home.

Feb 2nd Absence of teachers makes TT rather difficult.

Feb 3rd Mr Bullen called: Reported Hartnell children are suffering from G Measles. Annie Stammers, Eric Abbott, Pamela Stevens, J and S Cracknell and G Pegg as suffering from "flu".

Feb 5th Leonard Palmer sent to Isolation Hospital. S.F.
Lionel Rush " " " "

Feb 15th The greenhouse is practically completed by the boys.

Dr H. Pedler, S.M.O. called re outbreak of S.F.

Feb 20th Another case of S.F. removed to Isolation Hospital.

(The scarlet fever epidemic continued through the spring term.)

During September children evacuated from London due to the war joined the Hartismere children: the local children were in school 6 mornings a week, 8.30 am till 12 noon, and the evacuees were in school six afternoons, 1 - 4.30 pm.

Towards the end of the Christmas holidays, the Headmaster reports:

Dec 29th Mr Nunn caretaker collapsed this morning owing to extreme cold. I have to act as caretaker and keep the heating apparatus going.

1940

Jan 8th School opened again after Xmas holidays. Admitted several senior evacuees from surrounding village schools.

Jan 17th Attendance 74/270. Severe snow.

Jan 18th Attendance too low to mark. Severe frost and snowstorm.

Jan 22nd V heavy fall of snow. Only 63 present.

Jan 26th Not been able to mark all the week. Attendance 31%. This is the worst week I have ever experience for weather in any school.

Jan 29th A very low attendance 100/270. A gale has blown the snow from the fields into the roads. School buses could not run as the drifts are several feet deep. Miss M May unable to get to school as the Occold Road is impassable.

Feb 16th The attendance has been poor all the week - snow, slippery roads and influenza.

And again in 1947 ...

Jan 7th 1947 School opened after Xmas vacation. Numbers very low owing to snowstorm and bad roads. [The weather continued snowy through January and February.]

Feb 6th Snowing all day. It will be very difficult for several children to get home as this day's snow has made the drifts worse than ever. This is the worst we have had since Jan-Feb 1940.

March 6th Blizzard all night. Mr Watson unable to get to school. An exceptional snow storm. Attendance 61/210. This included some children who walked from Mellis, Thornham, Braiseworth etc. Only Tye's bus ran. Two girls walked 8 miles from Botesdale.