



North Wraxall School courtesy of Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre

## *A School Timeline*

**1875, May 12** School visited and examined by the Rev. S. J. G. Fraser. H.M. Inspector of Schools

**1875, July 1** Report received - "The children are very well behaved and in admirable order, and have passed a very satisfactory examination. The third standard was weak today in both spelling and arithmetic. Rather more neatness in working the sums would be an improvement."

School Staff:- E. A. Dowding, Mistress; N. H. Billett, Pupil Teacher; A. E. Dawson, Pupil Teacher; M. A. Farnilo, Pupil Teacher; A. E. Sidwell, Pupil Teacher.

Grant from Council of education, London £53 10s., on an average attendance of 75 children, the school having been open 480 times.

1874-75	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	Government Grant	53	10	0	Teachers	118	13	6
	School pence	13	13	2½	Repairs	3	10	3½
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	8	6	Fuel	3	5	2
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	29	5	8
	T. Howell, Esq.	10	11	0½	Insurance	0	4	9
	The Rector	44	16	7½				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4½</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4½</b>

**1875, October 22** School visited and examined in religious knowledge by the Rev. H. C. Powles, Diocesan Inspector.

**1875, October 29** Report received - "In consequence of unusually wet weather, the attendance on the day of my visit was much reduced. The staff employed (a mistress, four pupil teachers, and four monitresses) , being unusually strong, all the classes were thoroughly looked after. The written work among the younger children was remarkably good, but they were not so well acquainted with the gospel narrative as with the Old Testament facts. The general religious knowledge of the upper class was, considering the age of the children excellent. Discipline and order were unexceptionable."

**1875, December 10** Matilda Billett, teacher since November 21, 1871, leaves the school.

Frank Brokenbrow gained after competition a free scholarship at Colston's Hospital, Stapleton, Bristol.

**1876, May 17** The school visited and examined by the Rev. S. J. G. Fraser, H.M. Inspector of schools.

**1876, May 17** Kate Dawson, born June 2, 1863, engaged as teacher, leaving October, 1882

**1876, June 8** The report received --- "The school is in very good order, and has a very good supply of teachers. In some parts, however, the instruction has not been successful. The spelling of the second standard, and the reading and sums of the fifth standard were good. The reading of the fifth and sixth, repetition of the fifth and sixth, spelling of the second and fifth, sums of the first, second and fourth, and the botany of the fifth and ex-standard sixth were all fairly good. Reading of the second and fourth standards, sums of the sixth and spelling of the third, were fair. The rest of the work of the standards was inferior, especially the spelling of the fourth standard, composition of the sixth, sums of the third, and botany of the fourth and sixth standards. Grammar, history and geography were on the whole satisfactory."

School Staff:- E. A. Dowding, Mistress; N. H. Billett, Pupil Teacher; A. E. Dawson, Pupil Teacher; M. A. Farnilo, Pupil Teacher; E. A. Sidwell, Pupil Teacher

Grant from Council of Education, London £61 9s., on an average attendance of 77 children, the school having been open 471 times.

1875-76	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.	£	S.	d.	
Government Grant	61	9	0	Teachers	146	43	7½
School pence	13	13	10½	Repairs	1	7	0
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	9	0	Fuel	3	8	6
Interest on £333 6s 8d	10	0	0	Books	35	10	6
Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Insurance	0	4	9
The Rector	69	3	6				
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4½</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4½</b>

**1876, August 10** School visited and examined in religious knowledge by Rev. C. H. Awdry, Diocesan Inspector.

**1876, August 14** Report received "These children are in admirable order, under a strong and efficient staff of teachers. The results of my examination were very creditable, and the paper work of some of the highest group unusually good. I was glad to observe also general accuracy in writing in the groups below the highest."

**1876, November 6** E. Newman, who had served as pupil teacher at Stratton St. Margaret's engaged as teacher.

**1876, November 22** E. Newman approved by the Council of Education as assistant mistress.

**1877, May 16** The school visited and examined by H. M. Inspector.

**1877, June 15** Report received "The discipline of the school is very good, and the children have passed a greatly improved examination. The fifth standard was very weak in reading; the rest of the work was fairly well done more than half of the children passed in the three elementary subjects, and more than a quarter of them passed in two subjects.

School Staff:- E. A. Dowding, Mistress; Elizabeth Newman, Assistant Mistress; N. H. Billett, Pupil Teacher of the fourth year; A. E. Sidwell, Pupil Teacher of the fourth year; A. E. Dawson, Pupil Teacher of the third year; M. A. Farmilo, Pupil Teacher of the third year; Mercy Bennet; Ann Cole; E. Mc. L. West - these three being "Women employed during the whole of the day." Art. 32. C. 3.

Grant from the Council of Education, London, £76 4s., on an average attendance of 88 children, the school having been open 483 times.

1876-77	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS				
	£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.	
	Government Grant	76	4	0	Teachers	190	16	6
	School pence	16	16	2	Repairs	10	0	6½
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	6	3	Fuel	3	6	0
	Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	10	0	0	Books	5	15	6
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Insurance	0	4	9
	The Rector	74	16	10½				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3½</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3½</b>

James Brokenbrow and John Hicks received certificates of honour from Lord Sandon, the Minister of Education, entitling them to free education for the next three years.

1877, June 29 G. Dawson gained a free scholarship to Colston's School, Bristol.

**1878, February 22** E. Newman, assistant mistress since November 7, 1876, left to take charge of the Infants' school at Marshfield, having received a certificate in the third division.

**1878, March 8** Mercy Bennett, leaves the school.. She entered November 4, 1872, as Mercy Kidd.

**1878, May 9** School inspected

**1878, July 5** Report received "The discipline of the school is very good, and there is a full and efficient teaching staff. Care should be taken lest the children should learn to lean too much on their teachers and thereby acquire too much dependence of thought. This tendency seems to shew itself in the general average of passes as well as the average of each subject having fallen off slightly since last year. Class subjects fairly satisfactory."

School Staff:- E. A. Dowding, Mistress; N. H. Billett, Pupil Teacher of the fifth year; A. E. Sidwell, Pupil Teacher of the fifth year; A. E. Dawson, Pupil Teacher of the fourth year; M. A. Farmilo, Pupil Teacher of the fourth year; A. Coles; E. M. Drewett; E. McL. West all three "Women employed during the whole day," Art. 32., C. 3.

Grant from the Council of Education, £88 19s 5d., on an average attendance of 102 children, the school having been open 485 times.

1877-78	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS				
	£	s.	d.	£	S.	d.		
	88	19	5	Teachers	225	8	3	
	19	19	3	Repairs	19	16	7½	
	27	6	8	Fuel	8	2	9	
	10	0	0	Books	11	19	5	
	5	0	0	Insurance	0	4	9	
	109	6	5½					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9½</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9½</b>

**1878, June 22** Dawson, A. E., Farmilo, M. A., and Sidwell A. E. attend the examination of pupil teachers in religious knowledge and pass in it.

**1878, October 23** School visited and examined in religious knowledge by the Rev. C. S. Taylor, Diocesan Inspector.

**1878, November 6** Report received "The discipline and tone of the school are very good. The children have been carefully taught. They seem to be thoroughly interested in their work, and passed a good examination."

**1879** The schoolhouse was raised a storey at an expense of £100

**1879, May 7** School inspected by H. M. Inspector.

**1879, June 11** Report received -- "The general efficiency of the school is fairly commensurate with the amount of labour bestowed upon it. Some of the standard work was very well done, and the girls seem to have been taught needlework very thoroughly. History and grammar have also been handled with very fair success, though the geography was only pretty fair. The results in mathematics and domestic economy were poor; only three passes being secured out of a possible fourteen."

School Staff:- E. A. Dowding, Mistress; N. H. Billett, Assistant Mistress; A. E. Sidwell, Assistant Mistress; A. E. Dawson, Pupil Teacher of the fifth year; M. A. Farmilo, Pupil Teacher of the fifth year; A. Cole; E. M. Drewett; E. Mc. L. West - these three being "Women employed during the whole of the day." Art. 32. C. 3.

Grant received from Council of Education, London, £93 11s. 7d., on an average attendance of 104 children, the school having been open 483 times.

1878-79	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	Government Grant	93	11	7	Teachers	224	17	2½
	School pence	19	2	7½	Repairs	22	7	10
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	26	11	11	Fuel	3	13	5
	Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	10	0	0	Books	8	19	4
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Insurance	0	4	9
	The Rector	105	16	5				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6½</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6½</b>

Five children, Mary Andrews, Lydia Booy, Arthur Drew, Joseph Swan, Thomas Vincent received certificates of honour, entitling them to free education for three years.

**1879, September 12** Ann Coles ceased to be a teacher. She began June 10, 1872

**1879, October 12** M. E. Drewett, teacher since June 18, 1873, leaves the school.

The school year closes April 30, instead of May 31.

**1880, January 2** A. E. Sidwell, assistant mistress, enters the Home and Colonial training college, Gagsinn Road, London

**1880, May 13** School visited and examined by the Rev. S. J. G. Fraser and Mr. H. R. Mines.

**1880, June 24** Report received "The school is in very good order, and has made further good advance in the elementary subjects. The second standard did their work very well, especially their spelling. The arithmetic of the first standard too was good on the whole. The rest of this work was good on the whole. Grammar good in the second standard, fair in the third and very good in the fourth, fifth and sixth standards. Geography pretty fair, history fairly good, needlework pretty fair, English repetition fairly good, domestic economy imperfect. The elder infants passed well in sums and very well in writing, but are very backward in reading."

School Staff:- E. A. Dowding, Mistress; N. H. Billett, Assistant Mistress; A. E. Dawson, Assistant Mistress; M. A. Farmilo, Assistant Mistress; E. Mc. L. West, Woman employed during the whole day. Art. 32. C. 3.

Grant from the Council of Education £95 12s. 9d., on an average attendance of 109 children, the school having been open 479 times.

1879-80	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	Government Grant	95	12	9	Teachers	217	12	3
	School pence	19	11	9½	Raising School House	99	16	3
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	2	0	Repairs	3	9	0
	Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	10	0	0	Fuel	3	12	11½
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	10	17	10
	The Rector	178	6	6	Insurance	0	4	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0½</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0½</b>

W. J. Bigwood received a certificate of honour entitling him to free education for three years.

**1880, May 14** Lydia Booy, born May 23, 1867, engaged as teacher. She left November 24, 1882

Mary Andrews, born October 16, 1867, engaged as teacher. She left October. 1885

Lilian Elizabeth Shellard, born March 13, 1867, engaged as teacher. She left 1884.

**1880, August 12** School visited and examined in religious knowledge by the Rev. C. H. Awdry, the Diocesan Inspector.

Report:- "The general knowledge of Holy Scripture displayed by the elder children is creditable in a high degree, and the method observable in their paper work is far beyond what is usually met with in a country school. Their knowledge of the first part of the Catechism was a little weak. The younger children also answered well, though their repetition of the Catechism was somewhat indistinct. I would suggest for younger classes the learning of texts and hymns, and some private prayers for all."

PRESENT		TOTAL PRESENT	CLASS
BOYS	GIRLS		
11	21	31	First
11	14	25	Second
11	11	22	Third
7	15	22	Fourth
11	6	17	Fifth
7	8	15	Sixth
<b>58</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>