

Tales out of School

Aspects of Education around Bidford 1850 to 1950



Class 1 Bidford School 1908



Aspects of Education Around Bidford

This booklet provides an overview of educational activities in Bidford, Salford Priors and Dunnington over a 100 year period. That period saw the extension of school education to all with a progressively rising school leaving age. The booklet is in six sections listed below.

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At the end of the booklet are appended the two display boards as used in the library, in reduced size format.

About This Booklet

In early 2020 Bidford and District History Society provides a display in the Bidford Community Library charting the history of education between 1850 and 1950 in the local villages. This booklet supports the display with more detailed information.

The information is drawn from different sources:

1. Interviews by History Society members with elderly people in the villages who attended Bidford School in the period 1925 to 1960. Some of those interviewees have now passed away.
2. Information from BDHS archives which have been established at the Library. These provide a range of numeric information and records.
3. Photographic records from the collections of Rodney Crompton, Bob Marshall and Warwickshire County Record Office.
4. Research by John O'Connor into educational legislation.
5. Information from the Perkins Trust in regard to a Salford Priors Head teacher.

This booklet does not cover secondary education in the area (above 14 years) as that will be subject of a separate presentation.

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Publication edited by John Alexander-Head on behalf of Bidford and District History Society.

Elementary/Primary Education from 1850 until the early 20th Century

This period was characterised by the move towards a state system of education for all children. A brief outline of the main legislation affecting our schools provides the context for this significant development.

Until the mid 19th century England had no state education. Schools belonged mostly to the Churches and had been allowed to develop in line with the country's class structure. Many groups had campaigned for more and better education, especially for the children of the working class. These groups had not been supported by most of the middle and upper classes who could see no need for it and were worried about state control of education.

The success of the Great Exhibition of 1851 reinforced Britain's complacency about education for all children. However, the Paris Exhibition of 1867 revealed a high level of industrial technique in other countries, particularly Germany, and it was clear that this was based not just on a high standard of technical education but also on universal elementary [pre-teenage] schooling.

The result was that between 1870 and 1902 English elementary education became both free and compulsory, state elementary and secondary schools were established and government control over education increased greatly.

The Elementary Education [Forster] Act 1870	This made provision for the elementary education of all children aged 5-13. It established school boards to oversee and complete the network of schools and to bring them all under some form of supervision. Our villages were fortunate in that the Established Church had initiated schools.
Elementary Education [Mundella] Act 1880	School attendance was made compulsory up to the age of 10 or gaining a certificate of education, whichever was later. Children without a certificate stayed until age 13. Dunnington records show many children remained until their 13th birthday, which may suggest poor attainment.
Elementary Education Act of 1891	<p>This made education free. However, this Act did not enforce free education on the voluntary sector, mainly Church schools. It did empower their School Boards to admit children freely to their schools, without entering into the question of poverty.</p> <p>In 1894 additional regulations were introduced to manage school attendance.</p>

Local School Boards oversaw schools as the Local Education Authorities, LEAs, were not created until 1902

The basis for the early funding of schools was payment by results, mainly 'the three Rs', monitored by school inspectors. This standards system began to fall into disuse because of its narrow, education limiting focus and was finally abandoned by the Board of Education around the turn of the century.

The school leaving age:

1880 10 years
1893 11 years
1899 12 years
1918 14 years
1947 15 years

In a relatively poor agricultural area such as these villages, children were an important earning resource for a family. The 1891 census lists children as Ploughman or Servant while still below the school leaving age.

Teachers

Until the 1890s, almost all teachers were trained by the voluntary religious agencies. These agencies were criticised by inspectors for the weakness of their work in secular subjects. A 1902 Act empowered LEAs to provide teacher training colleges and by 1922 there were twenty-two local authority and fifty voluntary, (religious) training colleges.

Pupil-teachers were recruited at the age of thirteen or fourteen (raised to fifteen in 1900, sometimes with a probationary period from thirteen to fifteen). Pupil-teachers taught for around twenty hours a week. At Dunnington they appear to have been called Monitors. As the minimum age for pupil teachers was gradually raised, their numbers fell from over 11,000 in 1907 to fewer than 1,500 in 1913 and they were largely confined to working in schools in rural areas.

Where Education was delivered in each village

In the early years of the 19th century relatively small numbers of children were educated in school. A survey carried out in Birmingham in 1860 determined only 9% of children received any form of education. Such education as was delivered was often through Dame/Private schools.

The National Society was set up in 1811 to provide elementary education for the poor in accordance with 'the Principles of the Established Church'.

Salford Priors

In Salford Priors a school had been established already in 1694 through a legacy left by William Perkins, a London Tailor who came from Salford. The school met in a room at the south-west corner of Salford Church.

This photo indicates the school room position below the tower.

The William Perkins Trust continues to this day, providing educational grants to local students.

In 1860 the present school on School Road was built. The school opened with about 70 children. It was built about half mile from the main settlement of Salford so that it was accessible also for Bevington and Rushford children. The school land was bought by the Perkins Foundation and the building funded by public subscription. There were only 8 "Gentlefolk" listed for the village and most other people had fairly lowly jobs, so the subscription of £680 was quite impressive.

These original buildings remain in service



Bidford

A small Bidford school was established early but so far we have traced no records of it. A small National School, built in Church Street, was enlarged in 1846 to accommodate 160 children. As the Bidford population increased, the pressure on accommodation intensified and in 1872, according to White's Directory, 'a large and neat National School with a house for the master, was erected...on the Broom Road' (now Victoria Road).



National School, later Infants school (now Church Hall)

The 'Old School', as it was known, continued to be used as an Infant Department until 1950. It is the present-day Church Hall. The current school was opened in 2000 and the site of the 1872 school is now Old School Mead housing estate.



Victoria Rd. School

Dunnington

The 5th Marquis of Hertford granted the school to the Vicar and Church Wardens of Salford Priors by deed dated 19 February 1876. It was 84 years later that the 8th Marquis granted Easement for drainage to the County Council. The Hertford family maintained a close relationship with the school for over 50 years with tea parties donations and other events. Dunnington school was built in 1876, and replaced with the current structure in 1909. It was another 31 years before it had running water. The school had capacity for 90 pupils but early attendances averaged 60.



Dunnington, laying the foundation stone July 1909

Dunnington The school assembles in front of the new building, November 1909



The period from 1850 onwards was an age of fierce denominational rivalry. Non-Conformists objected strongly to Church of England Schools receiving state funding. The newspaper titled a 1904 court case "Passive Resistance" when the Dunnington Baptist Minister the Rev J Aitkin was summoned for non-payment of 3/6 as part of the poor rate half year. He was objecting to paying the Education part of the Rate, on conscientious grounds. Others from his church were also charged. The court ordered them to pay.

In addition to the village schools two private schools existed at various times.

In the period around 1850 at Park Hall House, Salford, Rev. Samuel Ellis Garrard ran a boarding school for boys, aged 9 years to 15 years of age in Park Hall House. There were 29 boys listed in the 1851 census with places of birth varying from Edinburgh, Honiton, and Monmouth to Madras, Calcutta, Van Diemens Land and the East Indies. Possibly they were sons of army officers and of people engaged in the colonies. There was an assistant tutor and they were all looked after by 7 servants. In 1857 Rev. Samuel Ellis Garrard became vicar of Salford Priors and the school probably closed at that time as there is no further evidence of it.

Samuel Ellis Garrard died 3 years later and was succeeded as vicar by his son, Rev. Samuel Garrard who was vicar of Salford for 42 years.

In Bidford during the 1920's Florence Grove started a private school in the Assembly Rooms, pictured right.

Subsequently the school moved to a house across the road.
Dorothy Johnson recalls:

"It was just one room, to me as a four year old, it was huge...there were about seventeen of us."

Miss Grove's School, 1927 (Dorothy Johnson Collection)



Front Row L to R: Jean Hobbs, ? Phillips, Joan Griffiths, Anne Aspinwall, Sheila Derrick, ? Phillips, Dorothy Horseman (now Dorothy Johnson), Kenneth Evans.

Middle Row L to R: Brian Hughes, Brian Jakeman, John Johnson.

Back Row L to R: Margaret Hughes, (Teacher) Florence Grove, Jimmy Lovegrove, Barbara Jakeman, Betty Griffiths, Phyllis Horseman, (see page 11) Roger Johnson.

More about this school follows in section: The Experiences of Children.

Experiences of the children

Bidford Infants

The Infant Department had an average attendance of 80 in 1900, according to Kelly's Directory, and was run by Miss Mary Poole. By the 1920s Mrs. Warner, wife of the Junior School Head, Arthur Warner, was in charge, assisted by Miss Smith.

Mollie Henderson started school in 1921:

I can remember my first day as a very shy four and a half year old. I had a dark red velvet dress with a starched pinafore over it and new brown boots which my mother had buttoned up the sides with a button hook which I still have. I didn't really want to go to school, I was happy at home amongst all our animals, cows, horses, pigs, poultry, cats and dogs, so it was with a very heavy heart that I went clutching my mother's hand.



Infants School, 1931 (Frank Spiers Collection)

Front Row L to R : J Clee, n/k, A Harris, T Craven, B Moore, C Bennett

2nd Row L to R: J Smith, D Mayrick, B Manders, D Bailey, J Gailey, R King, A Bateman, P Edkins, M Dance, P Bryan, J Mills, W Hands, H Dance, F Clee

3rd Row L to R: G Gould, N Edkins, n/k, M Swift, V Pulham, S Harper, N Foster,

N Harris, n/k, E Sherwood, F Bennett, N Teale, E Langston, E Morrel, B Gould

Back Row L to R: D Bott, S Baldwin, K Prickett, G Craven, E Osbourne, F Spiers, D Bateman, G Higley, D Liddell, J Green, n/k F Bennett, L Gould Teachers: Left Miss Smith, Right Miss Jackson

Charlie Haywood started school over 10 years later. The school day began

..with assembly with both classes singing a hymn and saying prayers. Then the screen was closed, dividing school into two classrooms.

Instruction in the three 'Rs' (reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic) was at the heart of the curriculum. A period of rest was a daily feature of afternoon school. Charlie Haywood recalls:

After we had eaten our sandwiches and had a play outside, we were ...made to lie down on straw mats for a rest. Presumably to re-charge our batteries, after all we were only five years old and for many of us, this was the longest time we had been away from our parents.

This practice, referred to by Mollie Henderson as 'Heads Down', involved 'folding our arms and resting our heads for about 15 minutes, sometimes some of us actually went to sleep!'

Mollie Henderson 'had those lovely books "A is for Apple" and we soon learnt our ABC and to count to 10 on a large abacus'. Spelling was taken very seriously. One memory that has lived with Frank Spiers for over 80 years 'was having to write "said" 100 times after spelling it "sed"'. The children's classroom experience, however, extended well beyond the three 'Rs', as Mollie Henderson lovingly recalled:

Mrs. Warner was very good at organising singing and dancing. She had quite a few tall Welsh hats and wraps and we all loved getting dressed up and dancing in the costumes.

Dinah Holder, who started school at the age of four in 1927, was similarly positive:

At the age of six I can remember we had an orchestra, it was a band really. I was made Band Master, I had to wear a suit, had a music stand, stood on a box with a baton. I thought I was the cat's whiskers!

Bidford Junior

Transfer at the age of seven to the 'Big School' in Victoria Road marked the next stage of schooling for village children. For the vast majority, until the Secondary School was built in 1938, it was also their last. From 1880 until 1918 the school leaving age was 10, then 11 and then 12. Children left the day after their 13th birthday if they had not passed a leaving certificate.



Bidford class 4, 1909

As well as Arithmetic, English, History and Geography, Frank Spiers listed PT and Gardening as the main subjects in the curriculum. Les Smith recalled that the school had a number of allotments at the foot of Marriage Hill which were split up into plots for the boys to work for one or two periods a week. In a community where, in the 1930s, market gardening offered plentiful employment

opportunities, the hours the boys spent on the allotment provided relevant training for life after school.

While the boys worked in the garden, the girls learned domestic skills such as needlework and knitting. The latter was not a happy memory for Norah Hiatt and her friend Mary Bennett:

12 months we were knitting a matinee coat between us. We done it one afternoon, and next afternoon we had to take it out, and when we left school we never finished it...I always said I would never touch another piece of knitting...I used to pay to have my babie' clothes knitted.

For Frank Spiers and his sister Dinah Holder extra-curricular activities provided some of the more memorable moments of their years at the 'Big School'. Frank enjoyed the drama productions that the Head, Mr. Warner, put on in Class 6 and 7:

Mr. Warner...was a good amateur actor. This rubbed off on his pupils and every year we performed plays in the Co-op Hall. [He] would write the play on the blackboard and we would copy it into our books then learn the words.

Day trips to Liverpool and the Mersey Tunnel, Bristol and London were the highlights of Class 6 and 7 for Dinah Holder. An incident that occurred on one of these outings influenced her behaviour for life:

When we had our picnic, some boys and girls fetched cups of tea for all, but the boys had put salt in the cups instead of sugar which made us all sick, not a good joke. I've never had sugar since.

Although Frank and Dinah were able to recite the names of all their Junior school teachers, Norah Hiatt and Charlie Haywood had a special mention for 'Gertie' Armitage who spent all her teaching career at the school prior to her retirement in 1945. Charlie remembers that:

She was good at getting us to do our work and used to walk around the classroom looking over shoulders to see what you were doing, and occasionally she would come with the remark, 'Now then who's letting off the perfume, then?' which had the effect of reducing the whole class into fits of laughter.

Private upbringing

A small minority of children in Bidford were educated privately, and the evidence would suggest that even fewer had governesses. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the live-in governess, not to be confused with the more child-minding nanny, was a common feature of many middle-class households. Governesses were often spinsters of variable age, generally from middle class backgrounds themselves.

Barbara Comyns, (author of "Sisters by a River") who was born in 1909, endured a succession of governesses during her childhood at Bell Court. The least popular was the 70 year old Miss Vann who had 'always been in the best families'. All the children hated her:

I got a smacked bottom every night...in case I talked to Beatrix instead of going to sleep...One day, she dragged me upstairs to put me to bed for a punishment, but when we reached the top of the stairs I suddenly thought I couldn't stand all these punishments anymore and before I hardly knew what I'd done I'd kicked her down the stairs, she went down head first and landed with her head in a kind of brass pot that lived at the bottom...then she lay quite still...I thought she [was] dead so I crawled away and hid under a bed...When they found me a few hours later no one was cross...not even Miss Vann...She left soon after this, she said we were getting too old for her.

The much younger Miss Glide followed Miss Vann. A popular village figure and in great demand at tennis parties and dances, she stayed for several years before leaving to get married. Although she was not a particularly good teacher,

...she tried to make the lessons interesting, she was the first governess who read to us in the evenings and seemed to enjoy taking us for walks and playing games with us.

The alternative to a live-in governess was the small private school. By 1919 Barbara and her sisters had been without a governess for some time, with the result that:

Daddy and several other local parents ...thought it would be a good idea to start a small private school...two rooms in a villa on the Gorse [Broom] Road were taken and a teacher called Miss Jones was engaged.

Miss Jones was Welsh, wore pince-nez glasses 'and resembled a goat in nearly every respect'. There were only eight pupils, Barbara being the eldest. She 'found lessons very easy and dull.

The other children seemed to be bored too and often went to sleep, so did Miss Jones. After two terms Miss Jones was declared 'unsuitable' and the school closed down.

During the 1920s Miss Florence Grove started the only recorded private school in Bidford on the upper floor of the Assembly Rooms. Dorothy Johnson's elder sister, Phyllis, was a pupil there.



By the time Dorothy herself was old enough, the school had moved to a big house on the opposite side of the road:

It was just one room, to me as a four year old, it was huge...there were about seventeen of us.

Miss Grove acknowledged that the education provided was not the best preparation for anyone aspiring to a Grammar School education. After Dorothy's sister failed to win a scholarship to Alcester Grammar School, Miss Grove advised their father: 'What you really need to do is to send [Dorothy] to an elementary school, you'll stand a better chance'.

Dorothy's father, however, did not like Mr. Warner, the Headmaster of Bidford School, so she went to Stratford 'to the school opposite the hospital' and duly won a scholarship to Alcester Grammar. After school Dorothy pursued a teaching career and was Head Mistress of Bidford Infant School from 1964 to 1980.

An Unhappy side to Chidhood -or-"Spare the Rod"

All those Bidfordians we interviewed testified to the rigorous discipline they encountered at each stage of their schooling. Charlie Haywood described earlier his first day at infants school.

The concerns expressed by Dorothy Johnson's father may relate to the very disciplinarian approach adopted by the Junior School Head Teacher, Mr. Warner. He placed great value on corporal punishment.

Charlie Haywood commented on discipline which seems to have been severe by today's standards. He discovered it very early:

The first day at [Infant] school was quite a shock to many of us, discipline was very strict, as I found to my cost... We were told to keep quiet but to no avail... For no particular reason I was ordered to the front of the class and made to stand in the corner for the rest of the lesson. Such shame, but it taught me to keep my mouth closed unless spoken to.

Charlie recalled one incident which showed that teachers had no compunction about punishing the whole class for the misdeeds of the few:

The lavatory doors to remove the buckets in the girls' loo when full were in the wall of our loo and were fastened with a sliding bolt, there being no flush toilets. Someone, needless to say not me, found that by opening the doors it was possible to tickle the girls' bottoms with a long piece of grass. This came to a stop when one boy used a stinging nettle instead of grass! When this came to the teacher's attention, no one would admit to being involved – in those days everyone stuck together and kept quiet...

Charlie Haywood on the other hand was less critical:

I wouldn't want people to get the wrong idea about Mr. Warner, he was hard and strict with us but he was fair. If you got punished you probably deserved it.

When Mr. Warner retired in July 1946 after 29 years at the School, he defended his regime of strictness in a letter to the Parish Magazine:

I have had many things said to me, and about me, not all of them complimentary. Indeed, one man, many years ago, expressed the pious wish that my house might burn down... I have, at times, been looked upon as Bidford's Public Enemy No.1 but I have... done what I considered to be my duty [and it has been gratifying] to meet as men, many who as boys under me, having perhaps made the acquaintance of the 'instrument' of my discipline, seem to me to be little the worse for the treatment.

In Bidford during the thirties and forties, everyone knew everyone, with the result that news, especially news of misbehaviour, travelled quickly. As Charlie Haywood reflected:

The one big mystery during our schooldays was the 'village grapevine', we never managed to find out how it worked. If we had been up to mischief or had had the cane, how come our parents always knew about it before we got back home?



Discipline exercised by the arm of the law was also strict. All children, according to Frank Spiers, were afraid of the village policeman, PC Bill Munday:

If you did anything wrong he would put you in the police cell for a couple of hours!

Rodney Crompton recalled how

...he used to take a swing at you with his cloak which used to weigh about 10 pounds! He would give you a thick ear if he could!

Head Teacher Experience

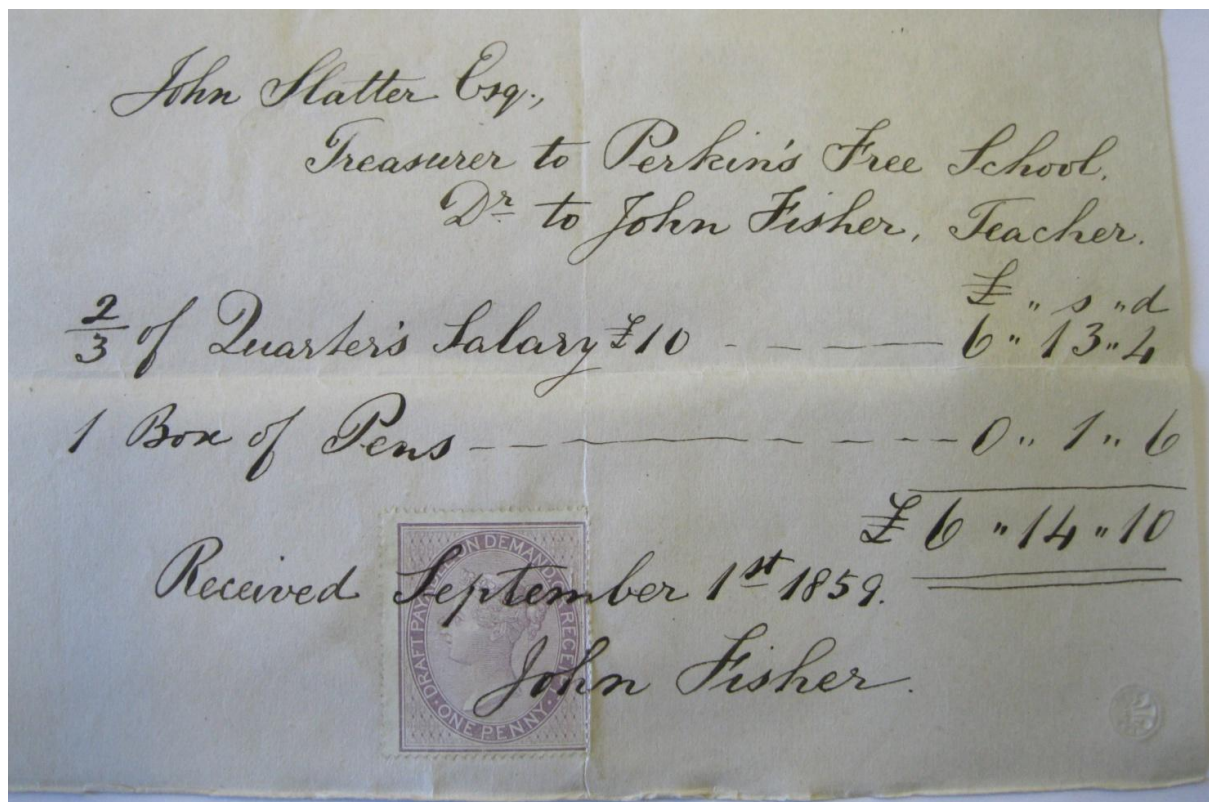
In the period from 1850, teachers required little or no qualification to become a Head Teacher. In fact, with class sizes of 50 or 60 pupils the Head Teacher was the only teacher in a school. We have selected information about the Salford and Dunnington Head Teachers.

Head Teacher in 1853 Salford Priors

Salford Priors was a fairly remote village in 1850, with a very small group of land owners and over 90% of the population engaged in agriculture.

In 1850 the Salford school was provided in a room of the Parish Church, St Matthews, just as it had been for the previous 160 years. At the time of the October 1851 census the school master was Malcolm McGhee, who died in late 1851. He was 28 years old at the time and had been paid at a rate of £43 0s 0d each year.

John Fisher arrived in Autumn 1853. The basis for payment was quarter days, in arrears. He was paid £40 each year, at £10 per quarter and also compensated for agreed expenditure on books and materials. In present day terms his salary was worth around £5,500 today, and he had additionally a cottage provided. Below is his first payslip, an example of one when he reclaimed expenses. The documents are reproduced at about actual size; paper was expensive!

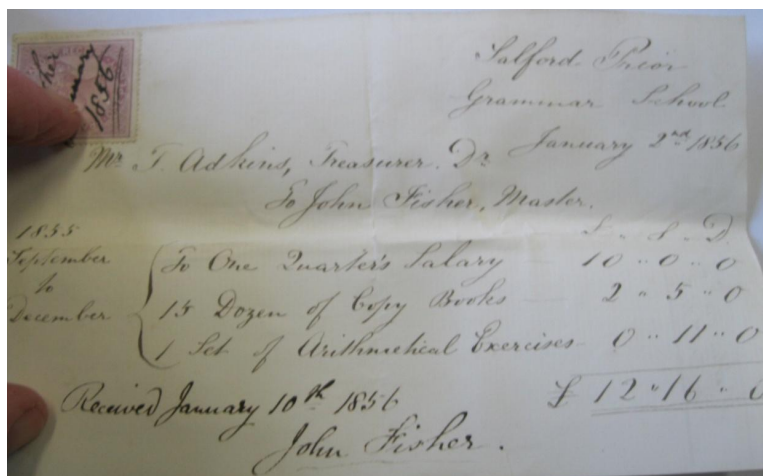


Census figures and other information at the County Records office suggest that there may have been around 75 pupils (5-13 years old) on the school roll. As this was (and is) an agricultural area, children were an important labour source. There are records that they took a two week holiday to pick peas during June and similarly to harvest plums and apples in late summer. Interestingly in the census some children of school age also had a job description, such as Ploughboy (9 years old) and dairy maid (11 years old). The children were all taught by John Fisher, there were no other qualified staff. It was normal that older children (12 years old) would be appointed as monitors.

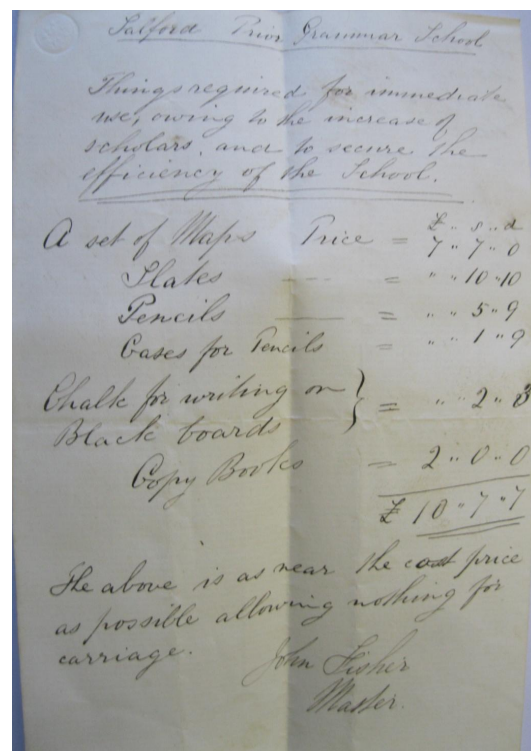
The Head Teacher was responsible for expenditure of the school and was reimbursed to the extent that the Treasurer of the Perkins charity, a Mr. John Slatter felt was affordable. In a letter to Mr. Slatter after taking a new appointment in Dallinghoo, Essex, John Fisher wrote to him in friendly terms. However in the letter he expresses that

My liabilities incurred at Salford will keep me poor for a very long time until I have paid them by instalments, which I hope they will take.

Payslip For quarter 4 1855



Final Payslip and expenses claim 1859



Head Teacher at Dunnington

Head Teachers stayed quite a while in Dunnington. The first school was built in 1876 and opened in January 1877. The first HT was Mrs Emily Williams and she served until 1909, a total of 34 years. Her salary until 1894 was £65 each year (equivalent to £8,378 in 2019) and this increased substantially in 1895 to £91 (equivalent to £11,000 in 2019) She also received a cottage which the school rented for 3 guineas annually.

Her successor, co-incident with construction of the present school, was Miss Ellen Rust until late 1916. The next Head for 15 years was Miss Ethel Mason, who became Mrs. Spiers. There were two assistant Heads during this period; Sarah Ann Coates 1877 to 1917 and Miss Ethel Mary Smith July 1917 until her death in Oct 1934. It is fanciful to think that Sarah Coates in her 40 years may have educated three generations of some families

In early years Dunnington school had 65 pupils enrolled who were taught by the Head and the Assistant Head. A monitor (child typically between 13 and 17) was paid about £4 each year. In the early years of the 20th century the school roll often fell to fewer than 30 pupils.

We know that in 1893 the school received a grant of £50, little more than the previous year. The special council grant was withheld as the responsible department considered it unnecessary to efficient maintenance of the school.

In 1894, despite the overall school running cost of £110, the amount the Head Teacher could influence was confined to books, stationary, teaching materials, fuel and maintenance amounting to £14. The Dunnington Heads kept detailed school diaries, explored next.

The School Diary Tells a Story

We learn a lot about events in schools from their diaries of 1890 to 1950. Our archive contains a handful of transcribed extracts of the Dunnington School diaries.

Locally schools closed for two weeks in June for Pea Picking and three weeks in August for Harvest. There were days off for a royal birthday, the flower show and an annual treat.

Infectious illnesses were prevalent. Scarlet Fever was the worst, and in January 1896 caused the school to be closed for 7 weeks. We have taken four themes: Comings and Goings, Out of School Treats, Illness and The coming of War.

Comings and Goings

1893 – undated	Accommodation for 90 children. Av Attendance 52. H.M. Inspector in charge Rev Garrard
May 13	Admit Ernest Gould - Frederick Roberts - Sophia Williams, all age 3yrs
1894 Jan 8	Kate Williams left in December age 13yrs, had not passed her exams
Feb 23	Rosa Coates has been a Monitress for 4 years, left to go into service
May 30	New school Laws about attendance: Albert Valender and Rose Meadows, reported to the Attendance Officer.
Oct 16	Lucy Mills left, she was 13 yrs old yesterday
1895 May 20 to June 10	8 children left on different dates.
Nov 11	Admit Edward Jones age 4 yrs
1897 Jun 23	Admit Charles Houghton age 3yrs
Oct 5	Admit Lily Stow age 3 yrs and Percy Stow age 4 yrs

During these early years many children left after only 3 or 4 years and normally because their parents moved. Numbers on the school roll varied from 30 to 50 pupils.

It was 1935 before any child was reported as moving on to Alcester Grammar School

Out of School Treats

May 24	Queen Victoria Birthday, day off
May	Empire Day, Pageant and half day holiday
June 6	Trinity Monday Holiday
June 2 – Aug 7	School closed for Pea Picking. 4 weeks
Aug 4	Annual School treat at Park Hall, half holiday. Invited by Earl and Countess of Yarmouth
Aug 20	Harvest Holiday, 2 weeks

Other special events: Coronation Day, Coronation week (5 days), holiday for Royal Marriage

Illness

1893 Nov 14-17	School had to be closed., Teachers and children had Influenza.
Nov 20	School reopened, but only 38 children there (31 absent)
1896 Jan 10	Christopher Harrod taken to Sanatoriarn (Fever) from Bevington Waste
Jan 21	As the fever continues to spread school closed on orders of Medical officer for Health for 7 weeks.
April, May	Further outbreaks of scarlet fever among named pupils
June 8	Continued outbreak of scarlet fever, Permission to close for three weeks from the Rev S Gerrard.
1935 Dec.	Geraldine Russell age 13Yrs to leave school has a Club Foot.

The diary holds frequent reports of individual sick children with conditions including Diptheria, Measles, Mumps, Whooping Cough with children off school for quarantine periods. It was known that such diseases could be fatal and very infectious.

The coming of war 1940

May 14	Tuesday, school reopened this morning. Whitsun Holiday Cancelled owing to the sudden invasion of Holland and Belgium, by Germany
July 30	Rev Thompson came to discuss Air Raid Protection
Aug 27	Air raid Warning heard at 2pm
Sept 2	Seven Evacuees from Birmingham admitted to the school
Nov 3	Another six children and a teacher, Evacuees from Coventry Nine more children arrive during the week

The full extract from Dunnington School diary runs to 16 pages and reaches until 1960. It is located in the Archives as a document and also as an e-file.