



Campsea Ashe School

A summary of the School Log Book 1866 – 1898



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Campsea Ashe School

The earliest mention discovered so far of a school in Campsea Ashe is in 1818 when it was recorded as being open for one day a week. It is possible that it was a Sunday school but no evidence to verify this.

The next reference to a school in the village was found in the Rev. Lucas's A History of Campsea Ashe. He stated that there was a schoolroom in the village in 1834 but no mention of exactly where it was situated.

In 1845, the Parish Archives recorded that the "school" was transferred to the Trustees of the Ipswich School Society. So far no information about this Society has been found.

Log Books were kept by the school from 1866 until it closed in 1974. In 1866, it records that the school had been closed for one year but no reason was given for this fact.

The school at Campsea Ashe was a Church School and had a Board of Managers to oversee the day to day running of the establishment. The Rector of St John the Baptist Church in the village played a prominent role in the school. His duties included the teaching of the scriptures to all the children and taking other subjects such as arithmetic and reading. On average, the Rector was in school 2 or 3 times a week.

From 1867, the school was subject to annual inspection on an annual basis. As it was a Church School, the Diocesan Inspector visited several times every year. Both these inspectors would attend the school and check examination results at the end of the school year. They also both reported their findings in the Log Book. These reports had to be signed by a manager of the school.

The Headmaster or Mistress had to hold a certificate of the required qualification. The school also employed an assistant teacher who would take examinations towards becoming "Certificated". Assistant teachers were paid about 2/6 per week.

School monitors were employed and used by the school. These were young people who had achieved a reasonable standard of education and they would be about 13 or 14 years old. They would be in charge of the younger children under supervision. The monitors were paid about 1/6 per week.

The children were not placed in classes as they are to day. They were grouped according to which standard of education they had achieved. They did not move into the next group until they had taken an examination and reached the required level. They were five standard in all, plus the infants. Later this was extended to a sixth standard.

This example appears in the Log Book for the end of year 1873:

Children's results from their examinations

29 children passed in reading,
22 in writing,
20 in arithmetic

A total of 71 passes in all this resulted in a payment of £4. 14. 0

Also 18 infants presented which amounted to £5. 4. 0

The average attendance of 49% resulted in	£14. 14. 0
The total grant was	£34. 2. 0

The School Building

The school had two rooms. The Main Room which was the largest and a second room in which the younger children were taught. Both the rooms would be used to teach two to three groups of children.

In 1867, the school must have been a rather cold, sombre place with no pictures on the walls and rows of wooden desks or tables and benches. There would of course, been no lighting except for candles if they were used at all. There was no running water and all water would have been collected from the well. The toilets would have been earth closets outside in the yard.

In 1867 there is an entry in the Log Book which stated “new school opened for the infants”. It is not known whether this was to do with classroom space or infants were now admitted into school.

The numbers of children attending school increased from 1867 and by 1872, there is a report that the school was not large enough particularly the main classroom.

After several comments by the Inspector that the school building was inadequate for the numbers of children. There were alterations made in 1878 and the building was heightened and enlarged. It is not known who paid for these.

Heating in the school was another problem and in 1880, the Inspector recommended that the two existing stoves have a common chimney and that the heating was “scarcely adequate”. It must have been really cold in the winter! It was not until 1883 that open fireplaces were built in the two classrooms.

The school seemed prone to flooding and occurred fairly regularly. In 1881, it so bad the school was closed.

In 1892, repairs were made to the school including improved drainage, flooring, locks desks and a new store in the schoolroom.

It appears that there was little substantial improvement to the building until a report by the School Inspection Report in 1893/4. This report on the School premises was as follows;

“The structure and premises come out so badly as to render it very doubtful whether not be false economy to patch and wiser to wait and erect a new school on new and better site. The school building is more than 6 feet below the road with insufficient playground, much of which treads into the school. Also he reported damp walls and a roof not substantial enough for stables, without a proper cloakroom or office arrangements, with breadth of only of 15 feet in the Main Room and classroom below the regular size with windows not well placed for light or ventilation, the school has little to commend it
There are good stoves to warm the Main Room while the classroom is very cold. I am required to enquire whether they can provide a new building in the current school year. For the attention of the Managers”.

In 1894, an entry in the Log Book referred to the heating in the school. On the 1st January when the school opened, the weather was extremely cold and good fires led to the temperature

in the school rose from 34 to 43 degrees by 3rd January. By the 8th January the temperature has risen to 50degrees in the afternoon! There were further comments that by 15th January, many children were absent with colds and whooping cough.

There was a Government Report to the school, which asked the Managers what steps they proposed towards improving the school premises, plans of any intended structural alterations should be submitted to the Department to meet regulations.

The following year plans were compiled of suggestions and additions to the school building. These plans were submitted but they were returned as unsatisfactory. This happened several times!

In September 1895, the schoolroom was “matchboarded” which was a great improvement On 15th November the plans for alterations to the school were returned approved. There were several events held to raise money for the building work

In March 1896, the work was put out to tender, three in all.

On 13th April, the school was closed and building work began

On 25th May the work was complete and the school reopened.

The Log Book does not state exactly what work was undertaken but it did include improved ventilation, heating, a new infant classroom, cloakrooms and new office. It seems that there was little improvement to the Main Room.

The Managers discussed the advisability of repairing the “old room of the school” and giving each child a peg in the cloakrooms “so that clothes do not come into contact with others” In 1896, the School Managers supplied 6 new desks, one blackboard and easel for the new classroom.

Pictures were given or purchased which brightened up the school

In 1895, a concert was performed to raise money for a school library. This became very successful and the number of books available gradually increased.

In September 1897, more improvements were made to the school building. The Main Room was widened by 3 feet and also heightened by 3 feet. The walls and ceiling were plastered and the lower 4 feet of the walls were match boarded. The Main Room now measured 36 feet in length, 18 feet in breadth and 15feet in height. A new floor was laid in the Main Room and the cap room.

Equipment

Equipment in the school was scarce and the children would have worked on slates. Books were a very rare commodity indeed and reading was taught using the Bible, which would have been very difficult.

In 1868, new desks had arrived for the children. In 1872, the Inspector reported that there were insufficient books for the infants and no pictures. Over the next six years, he repeatedly reported the lack of books for the infants and also a lack of desks and space for teaching. The playground was too dirty for the children.

In 1878, the new Headteacher found to her horror that there were only 2 sets of reading books for each standard.

Things had still not changed by 1880 when the HMI reported that there was insufficient equipment in the school.

In 1881, Mrs Sheppard, from the High House supplied the school with pictures. In 1882, the school had only one pair of scissors but also that year, new books arrived.

In 1883, a new blackboard and easel arrived and more importantly, paper for the children in Standard 4,5 and 6 to work on. This must have been very exciting. A year later more paper was supplied to the school and all children were allowed to work on paper. However this was restricted and slates continued to be used. It seems that it took a long time, about 14 years, for the school to get any equipment for teaching purposes and for the children to use.

The School Year

In the late 1867, the school year started on August/ September and ended in July. However in the 1870-1880's this seemed to change quite a lot and one year it started in April and ended in March and another year when the year ended on 28th June and started on 1st July.

As the school was a church school, the children would have a day's holiday on religious festivals such as Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day. They would have to go to church first though!

There is no mention of the word "school terms" as we know it today. The children did have school holidays. In 1867, the Christmas Holiday was from 20th December to 6th of January, very much as it is today. At Easter, the children had only Good Friday and Easter Monday off. They did have to go to church twice on Good Friday. From 1868 to 1887, the children only had two days holiday at Easter.

At Whitsun time the children had between 10 days and two weeks holiday.

The summer holiday, referred to as the Harvest Holiday varied greatly and could be any time between the end of July to the middle or end of September. During these dates the holiday would last from 4 to 5 weeks. In 1871, the school was closed on 16th August until 18th September and in 1872, it was closed on 9th August until 16th September. In 1879, it was very different with the school closing on 29th August until the 6th October for the Harvest break.

The school would close for special events or occasions, which would be granted by the Managers. Some examples of these are-

Treat given by the Rector on his retirement, one day's holiday 1867

Treat for good attenders given by Mrs. Sheppard, one day's holiday and tea at High House

Tea at Ashe Park and a day's holiday for Queen Victoria's Jubilee

One day's holiday for the wedding of Miss Thellesson 1891

The School Day

There were two sessions each day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. It is not clear from the Log Books exactly what time the morning session started and finished. It may well have been before 9 am and closed about 12 noon or 12.30pm.

It seems that the times the afternoon session finished changed in the winter months due to the shorter daylight hours. The children would start in the afternoon at 1.30 and finish at 4pm instead of 4.30pm. The school day was much longer then compared to today.

The children attending the school would all come from the village or neighbouring villages. They would walk home for their lunch and return for the afternoon session. If it were too far, they would have brought food with them.

Extra holidays, events and treats

Every year from 1872 to 1882, the children were given the day off school at the beginning of August to attend a “tea party” in the park at the High House at the invitation of Mrs. Sheppard. It was a reward for those who had a good attendance and gained their standard.

- 1874 12th June, a half-day holiday was granted for the Mistress’s birthday!
16th July, holiday given to 26 singers to attend a Festival Service at Wickham Market Church.
- 1875 14th May, choir and regular attenders at Sunday School invited to tea at the Rectory 35 present.
14th July, holiday given for choir to attend the Festival Service at Woodbridge.
- 1876 18th October. Mrs Sheppard’s prizes distributed.
Girls 3 passes, a frock and book
2 passes, one and a half print calico and a book
Boys 3 passes, three calico, a tie, handkerchief, knife and book.
2 passes, calico, handkerchief and book
Infants Girls, 1 print and 1 doll
Boys, 2 calico and a little pail.
- 1879 From 25th March to 3rd May, the school was closed for building work.
- 1880 11th Oct. Children photographed at school
- 1882 10th March, school closed for cleaning
- 1885 Sunday school treat given by Hon. Lowther.
15th Jan. The treasurer brought a box of oranges for the children.
- 1886 Holiday granted for Queen Victoria’s jubilee.
- 1889 21st June, most children absent because they went to see cattle being loaded at the station.
23 July, again many children absent as there was a circus in the neighbouring village.
- 1890 29th Jan. Prizes given out by Misses Reade
22nd Apr. Holiday given for the wedding of Miss Thellesson (Rendlesham)
9th October, holiday given on account of the Cottage’s Show, Wickham Market
- 1893 6th July, holiday granted for the wedding of the Duke of York and Princess Mary. Treat given by Miss Lowther for Campsea Ashe and Blaxhall children.
- 1894 12th Apr. Children’s Concert to raise money for the school

8th May, boys played football match at Rendlesham
3rd August, demonstration at High House Park in which the children took part.

1895 27th Mar. school closed on account of so much sickness
10th May older boys taken to Mr. Keer's field to see a steam plough in action
4th July, children sent into the playground for 5 minutes to see performing travelling monkey.
July, Mr. W. Reade put one of his fields at the school's disposal for a cricket Club.
29th July, school closed for a cricket match with Hacheston

1896 March/April, school closed for 5 weeks for building work at the school.
16th Sept. school closed for Flower Show.
Nov. children had a lecture from the Band of Hope

1897 News received that the school was to be used as a Voting Booth.
22nd May school closed for Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Children had tea at the Rectory
29th May, school Cricket Club formed.

1889 9th May, many children absent in the afternoon due to a fire at Rendlesham Hall
6th July, school closed due to Saxmundham Prize Scheme Exhibition at which the school won prizes.
18th July, mothers took children to Aldeburgh.

The Curriculum from 1867 to 1898 (First Log Book)

The main subjects taught at this time were the Three Rs, reading, writing and arithmetic. The other very important subject taught was Scripture, which was the responsibility of the local Rector who was also a school manager.

In 1868, reading was taught using the Bible, two chapters from the Old Testament, Genesis and Exodus and St Matthew from the New Testament. How difficult would that have been. It seems that there were very few other books in the school. One book that was mentioned was Paradise Lost by Milton!

Writing was taught through dictation and the children would have to learn poetry, which they would then recite. One such poem was The Lady of the Lake by A. Tennyson.

Singing was regarded as important and the children would have to learn songs by heart. The Rector would select children to sing in the Church Choir, which was seen as an honour.

In 1872, Geography and Natural History appeared on the curriculum as well as English composition. In 1876, there is the first mention of grammar being taught. Needlework was taught to both the girls and the boys, very forward thinking.

In 1878, Geography appears on the curriculum.

From 1879, the first mention of a timetable appeared in the Log Book. In the early 1880's, comprehension exercises took place.

The first clear information about what was being taught in arithmetic comes in 1883. The children were learning, mental arithmetic, fractions, weights and measures, multiplication of money, long and short division and short multiplication. It can be assumed that the children were taught the basics of number, addition and subtraction etc.

Scripture

The Rector would teach all the children and would be present in school two to three times a week. The children would be taught the catechism, the commandments and many stories and text from the Bible. These included The Creation, birth of Jesus, the Miracles, Joseph, Samson and St Matthews Gospel. The children also learnt hymns.

The Diocesan Inspector would test the children every year on their Religious Knowledge and the results commented on in the School Log Book.

In 1891, Drawing and History entered the curriculum

In 1893, a history syllabus was issued. It included the following;

Standard 1 and 2

The Princes in the Tower,	The Great Plague
Prince Charlie	Lord Nelson
The first Railway	The Queen's Visit

Standard 3

Ancient Britain	Caractacus and Boadicea
How the English became Christians	Edward the Martyr
Canute	Battle of Hastings
Hengist and Horsa	Alfred the Great

Standard 4, 5 and 6

The Stuart Period with biographies of	
Oliver Cromwell	Duke of Marlborough
John Hempton	John Milton
Charles 1 st	Francis Bacon

In 1894, the children were taught musical and physical drill with dumb bells.

In 1895, allotment gardens were created in the school grounds to teach children, mainly the boys, to grow vegetables. This proved a great success.

In 1886, the school received a syllabus which was referred to as "object lessons for the year". It included the following;

1. Copper	7. Tin	13. Deer	19 Glass
2. Iron	8. Cotton	14. Giraffe	20. Cotton manuf.
3. Lead	9. Oranges	15. Monkey	21. Wool manuf.
4. Salt	10 Cork	16. Bear	22. Earthenware
5. Gold	11 Cocoa	17. Sheep	23 Glass
6. Silver	12 Tiger	18. Goat	24 Silk

No indication about how these "objects" were taught or to which standard. It seems a strange mixture of topics.

In 1889, the Log Book revealed the lessons the Infants would have. The lesson included;

1. Moon and Stars	6. Coal	11. Prep of Leather.	16. Squirrel
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| 2. A Ship | 7. Tea | 12. Candles | 17. Bear |
| 3. The Oak | 8. Pepper | 13. Whale | 18. Dog |
| 4. Iron | 9. Cult. of Wheat | 14. Reindeer | 19. Owl |
| 5. The Sea | 10. Leather | 15. Lion | 20. Elephant |

The children were also to be taught poetry.

The school also had extra curricular activities. A cricket club was set up and there was also a football team, which took part in matches with other local schools. There was a choir, which it seemed, was also the Church Choir.

In 1893, a new Head teacher was appointed and he commented in the Log Book “that the school was so backward, lessons must receive more attention than specified on the timetable”. Music joined the other subject taught.

In 1896, two more subjects appeared on the curriculum. Swimming lessons took place in the River Deben in the summer, the boys in the morning and the girls in the afternoon. Elementary Science lessons began officially.

The Head teacher introduced the Scholar’s Own, a school magazine. This was also used for reading in the school.

Testing and examinations

The children in all standards were tested on a very regular basis in the 3r’s, singing and needlework.

The children would sit examinations once a year set by the government dept for education usually in July from the age of 7. The Head teacher would decide which children were ready to take the exam to pass to the next standard. They would be “presented” to sit the exam. The number of children presented for each standard varied greatly from year to year and was closely connected to the attendance rates. One of the School Managers would observe the government examinations taking place. The Inspector would return with the results and write a report in the Log Book which then had to be sign by a Manager.

In 1874 the Log Book records the following;

End of Year Examinations June 30th

2 children presented in Standard 5

1 child presented in Standard 4

8 children presented in Standard 3

6 children presented in Standard 2

10 children presented in Standard 1

20 children under 7

6 children were kept back as not fit for presentation

Results

27 passes in reading

24 in writing

23 in arithmetic

Total of 74 passes (out of 81) £14.16.0.

20 infants £ 8. 0. 0

Average attendance 50 £15. 0. 0

Total £37. 16.0

HMI Report (Inspector)

Margaret Cruckshank accepted as pupil teacher. Instruction suffered as result of sickness in the Parish. School in very good order. Reading requires much more attention, barely passable.

Two years later in 1876, 36 children were presented in the following Standards;
3 children in Standard 5, 6 in Standard 4, 9 in Standard 3, 7 in Standard 2 and 11 in Standard 1.
17 children were under 7

36 children were presented I Standards, of which 34 passed reading, 30 passed writing and 27 passed arithmetic.

Total of 91 passes (out of 108) @ 3/-	£13.13. 0
16 infants @ 8/-	£ 6. 8. 0
Average attendance 49 @ 6/-	£14.14. 0
Geography and Grammar, 31 passes @ 4/-	£ 6. 4. 0
Total	£40. 19. 0

Report

School in good working order, results very credible although improvement in hand writing and arithmetic still desirable. Increased desk accommodation required.

Signed by John George Sheppard.

Some of the reports were not as positive as those above.

In 1881, it was reported that instruction was falling off. No assistant for 6 months. Spelling and arithmetic very weak indeed. Appears only one pair of scissors in school. Grammar failed, still not providing reading sheets, pictures, new blackboard, ink wells. Heating totally inadequate in the Main Room.

Report in 1883 was as follows;

I am sorry to be obliged to report in most unfavourable terms upon instruction here which is in a lamentable state, owing no doubt in great measure to the change in teaching staff though nothing but culpable neglect could have brought it so low.

The following year, it was reported that although there was improvement in passes rate, it was generally unsatisfactory and little progress had been made with achievement poor in many subjects.

In 1887 the school received another good report so it seems that the school was making progress.

In 1885, there was a definite improvement in the standards achieved and the school was marked good. Miss E. Soulsby had been in the school for two years and she was making a difference.

In the 1890's, the Inspector reported that there were gradual improvements in the standard of education, each year.

In 1896, there was an entry in the Log Book of examination to compete for Grammar School places but it did not mention whether any of the children took the exam.

As far as educational achievement was concerned, the school only reached a barely satisfactory level from 1867 to the early 1890's. It seems that many children over that period only achieved the 3rd standard at best. The Head teacher had very few resources to work with and an inadequate building which was very cold in the winter. The success rate even the 3 R's was low. The range of subject taught gradually increased during the 1890's. Absence by the children was also a major factor affecting the lack of progress of the children. In spite of the Elementary Education Act in 1880 which made attendance to school compulsory, children were still absent because they were working in the fields, earning money to contribute to the family income. With some families, this work was essential

Attendance

Attendance had the most recorded entries in the first Log Book. Every page has several comments about the children's attendance.

Attendance was crucial to the progress of the children and the success of the school.

Attendance was recorded every day and the average calculated for every week. The annual average was also calculated at the end of the school year. All the averages were recorded in the Log Book, which one of the School Managers had to see and sign weekly. This was checked by the Inspector.

In the Education Act 1870, it stated that all children should be educated between the ages of 5 and 13. However, it was only compulsory if a bye-law was made requiring compulsory attendance. Attendance was calculated by the number of sessions in the week, one for the morning and one for the afternoon.

It can only be assumed that this was the case in Campsea Ashe. Prior to this Act, attendance at school was voluntary.

When the school opened in 1867 after being closed for a year, there was a steady increase in the numbers of children registering. By the Spring of that year, 50 children were registered. The actual numbers attending varied greatly as many were working in the fields with their parents, bringing in a welcome addition to the household income. The average weekly attendance was only 35.5%.

In March 1868, all the 1st Class was absent as they were working in the fields. In September, after the Summer Holidays, attendance was again very low as children were gathering acorns for pig feed, cow keeping, stone picking and gleaning. Average attendance for that week was 25.9%

In 1872, after the introduction of the **Education Act**, the numbers of children registered rose to 77. However, the actual numbers of children attending school was much lower. Average attendance for the school year 1871/2 was 66.8%.

In 1873, the Head teacher commented "the irregularities of the children's attendance quite fills me with dismay, it is impossible for us to succeed as we ought at the job" The Log Book records 73 children on the register but the average attendance was 41.93%. No wonder the Head was disappointed.

It seems that the children were given a set number of attendances in a year as a minimum. When the children reached their target there was a noticeable increase in absence. This fact was commented on in June 1874.

In 1875, the **Agricultural Children's Act** was passed. This stated that, "no child under 8 should be employed in agriculture". Children of ages 8 to 10 years could be employed in agriculture only if the parents signed a certificate stating that the child had 250 attendances. The child also had to have

achieved the 2nd standard This Act lacked any means of enforcement and in practice had only a small impact on attendance rates.

An entry in the Log Book on 4th January 1875, says that John Battle employed by Mr. Thurlow, (who I believe, was a School Manager), contrary to the Agricultural Children's Act. Also on 11th January, William Paternoster, aged 7 years, employed by Mr. Smith, cow keeping.

There are many incidents where children were absent because they were working in the fields, acorn gathering, cow keeping, stone picking etc. particularly at certain times of the years, e.g. March, June and July and September. In 1883, 16 children absent as they were acorn gathering. This state of affairs continued through the 1870's and 1880's and into the 1890's.

In 1880, the Elementary Education Act was passed and this attempted to cut down on the number of children who were still not attending school regularly. There was a major problem with truancy across the whole country and the Education Act of 1870 did not ensure that all children attended school. Children in Campsea Ashe continued to take days off, sometimes several weeks at a time, to work in the fields etc.

The Act of 1880 required that all children aged 5 to 10 attended school. Local Authorities were obliged to make a Bye Law to ensure this took place. Attendance Officers were introduced to check school attendance registers and follow up children who were absent.

In 1891, The Free Grant Act as passed which virtually established free elementary education for all children from the ages of 5 to 10. It is not known if the parents had to pay for their children to go to Campsea Ashe School before this Act came into force as there is no evidence of payment or otherwise as yet.

In **1893**, the school leaving age was raised to 11 years and in **1899**, it rose again to the age of 12.

The other main reason for absence was illness. It seems that every year there would be an outbreak of one or two diseases and a number of children would be absent. Sometimes the school would close for one or two weeks.

This also shows the health of the children and the lack of medication available to treat or prevent them. There was no National Health Service and the farm workers families could not afford the doctor anyway.

The following list shows what took place from 1867 to

- 1871 – Jan. Measles August Whooping Cough
- 1876 - Nov to Jan. Scarlet Fever School closed 2 weeks
- 1878 - Mumps over 5 week period
- 1881 - Whooping Cough outbreak, 21 children absent School closed
 - Scarlet Fever and Chicken Pox
- 1882 - Scarletina outbreak in village Ring worm present on children
 - Attendance very low
- 1883 - Mumps present amongst children June -Scarlet Fever
- 1884 - Scarlet Fever 20 children absent
- 1885 - Whooping Cough in July and Nov.
- 1896 - Mumps
- 1892 - Influenza prevalent in the village, Jan and Feb.

The weather was another reason not to go to school. Every time there was heavy snow, which was once or twice every year, the children would stay at home. If there was heavy rain or a thunderstorm, it was the same. I do have some sympathy with children staying away in very cold weather as the school was a really cold place.

For some children, they would not have sturdy shoes or coats to keep out the weather and probably only had one set of clothes which if they got soaked, had no others.

The school was closed when there was heavy snow and when the school flooded due to heavy rain. In 1875, the school was closed on 2nd December due to a very heavy fall of snow and did not open again for a week.

Headteachers, Assistant and pupil teachers and monitors from 1867 to 1898

1867-1869 Headmistress – **Caroline Hemsley**

No mention of an assistant

August 1869 Dismissed for bad conduct

Sept. 1869 to Dec.1870, Caretaker Head mistress **Mrs. Worsley** (uncertificated)

1871 to 1878 **Mrs Phillis Algar**, Head mistress, certificated

Ella Sawyer, assistant teacher left June 1871

Replaced by two monitors, Harriett Knights and Martha Bailey.

16th Sept. pupil teacher commenced

1872, Harriett Knights and Helen Able were monitors.

1873 Harriett Knights, monitor engaged as assistant mistress.

Helen Able, head monitor engaged @ 1/6 per week, left 17th Oct. 1874.

1874 M.A. Cruckshank engaged as pupil teacher

1878 Mrs. Algar resigned through ill health. She had been at the school for **seven** years.

1878 to 1883 **Mrs Emma Downing** employed as head mistress. Late mistress of the National School, Wilbarston, Northants.

Assistant teacher, Miss E. F. Newson or Mowson

1881, Assistant teacher Miss Read, 3rd Class, left 5th July 1881

Miss King employed 12th August 1881

1883, Head mistress resigned and left in Dec. after **5 years** at the school.

1883 to 1888 Headteacher **Miss Elizabeth Soulsby**, formerly of the Colonial Training College, employed Jan. 1883.

Mary Jane Milroy, assistant teacher 16th Apr. 1883 to 1886

Harriet Knights employed to teacher the Infant Class.

Miss Arness from St. John's School, Ipswich 1887, left 29th Feb 1888

Miss Soulsby resigned after **five years** at the school

1888 to 1889 **Miss L. K. Meadows**, Head Mistress appointed 1888, resigned 1889.

1889 to 1891 **Mr. P. J. Bridges** appointed 16th September 1889 as Head Master.
Resigned March 1891 after **2 years**.
Mrs. Hickley, 1st Class certificated, mistress also left.

1891 to 1893 **Mr. George H. Harrison** appointed Head Master in 1891, resigned after **2 years**.
Miss Harrison, assistant teacher.

1893 to 1897 **Charles Scott Anthony** appointed Head Master in Sept. 1893
Mrs. G. Anthony in charge of the infants.
Mr. Anthony had been at the school for **4 years**

1897 to **Mr. Greig** appointed as Head Master 1st Feb. 1897
Miss Laura Hewitt, assistant teacher
Mrs Greig, sewing mistress
1899, Miss Lilian Grass appointed as Infant Teacher.

The longest serving Headteacher during this period was Mrs. Algar. She had a difficult start trying to approved the standard of education of the children after a caretaker Head.

Between 1889 and 1893, the school had two head masters in 4 years. Several of the Head Teachers wrote comments in the School Log Book about the problems of getting the children to attend school and also their disappointment to find the standard of education poor.

An entry in the book by Mrs Algar stated “the irregularities of the children’s attendances quite fills me with dismay. It is impossible to succeed as we ought at the job in examinations”

In 1882, Mrs. Downing wrote “ I find Standard 2 excessively stupid in arithmetic and dictation”

In 1893, the Head Master recorded “the whole school so backward lessons must receive more attention than specified on the timetable”.

The head teacher did not always understand the Suffolk dialect. On 21st October 1896, Mr. Anthony recorded “ There are 14 children away with no good reason, parents believing that they can keep the children at home at any time. Silly reasons for absence are given including, a relation whooly fared some ugly.”

The School Managers

There is no clear indication from the school Log Book, of exactly how many managers there were at any one time.

The resident incumbent was always a school manager probably because it was a Church of England School. They would visit the school very regularly and teach the scriptures as well as other lessons such as arithmetic. They would also hear the children read and take dictation. The Rector's wife would visit the school and help with the teaching of needlework.

The Rectors were as follows from 1867 to 1898-

-1867	Rev. Legge
1867 - 1876	Rev. Henry Edward Knatchbull
1876 – 1891	Rev. Godwyn Alfred Archer
1891 – 1906	Rev. Christopher Hodgson

The owners of the High House played a prominent role as managers of the school.

John George Sheppard and his wife **Mrs. Sheppard** were frequent visitors to the school and from the Log Book carried out their role as a manager seriously. They were managers from 1867 until Mr Sheppard died in 1882.

John George checked and signed the attendance register on many occasions. They also listened to the children reading and even took dictation lessons. Mrs. Sheppard arranged the annual treat for the children who had good attendance and those who had achieved the standard required. This event was held in the Park at the High House. They also provided the school with various things such as pictures for the classroom and supplied the prizes for the children who had done well. (See Extra holidays, treats and events)

The Hon. Mr. Lowther and his wife took on the duties of managers of the school when they moved to the High House in the early 1880's. They too played a large part in the overseeing of the school and continued the pattern set by the Sheppards.

From 1867 to 1870, Mr. and Mrs Fish were managers of the school.

In the 1870's, Mr Hayward and Mrs. Joliffe were mentioned in the Log Book

In the 1880's more managers were referred to including Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Forbes and Mr Thurlow who was the treasurer. Also Mr. Minter and the Misses Reade were serving as managers. Mr. Mason took over as treasurer in 1887. In 1889, Mr Bridges a frequent visitor and a Miss Brown are recorded as managers.

In the 1890's more names were recorded including Mr. Steele, Mr. Buxton and Major Larkin.

Manager's duties included, the checking and signing the attendance register every week, and one of them being present at the time examinations were taking place.

One of the managers would have to read and sign the HMI's reports. They were required to support the school and provide any help, which would encourage the children to attend school and achieve their potential, treats for example. One or two managers would even visit families to find out why their children were not in school.

In the 1860's the managers would have meetings in the Head teacher sitting room. This seemed to take place once or twice a year. By the late 1880's they seemed to more frequent. At that time there was much to be agreed upon with major improvements to the school building and the lack of equipment.

It is not known who actually paid for the upkeep of the premises or other essentials such as stationery, and furniture. The school did not seem to have a great deal in this respect and particularly with regard to heating and cloakroom facilities. The managers supplied the school with a bucket for washing hands and another pail and mugs for drinking. They would have received funds from the government but it was not as much as the National Schools. Being a Church School they may have had help from the diocese.

Children mentioned in the First Log Book 1867-1900

1867 William Chilvers expelled
Harry Buckles and Fanny Baker taken off register
George Pinnar admitted

1868 Austen Jordan admitted
E. Riches and E. Able given leave to go to Tunstall School
E. Buckles asked for 2 weeks leave
Mary Ling admitted
Edward Riches started advanced arithmetic
A. Knights removed from register
George Chilves admitted
Austen Jordan dismissed
William Barham, Alice and George Cormins?, William and Elizabeth Smith admitted

1869 Hester Charlton and Martha Knights started more complicated arithmetic
George and William Barham admitted
Julia Benham left to go into service
Jane Charlton died.

1870 Mark Mattin dismissed for bad conduct
5 Mays children, William Mowson and Alfred Charlton working in the fields
George Mays, Jane Buckle, Eliza Knights and Mowson children all absent
Eileen Lock's name withdrawn
Marion Able re-admitted
William Mowson left to go to work
Mary Pooley, William Paternoster, Ellen Mowson admitted
Alice Ling left to go into service
George Smith suspended
Eliza and Jane Knights leaving village
Chester Buxton admitted
Elizabeth Jordan admitted and left the same week
Harriet Knights and Mary Mays removed for misconduct
Sidney and Audrey Short left the village.
Children admitted in Sept. Sabina Good, Agnes Knights, John and Harriet Buckles, Emily and Sarah Pinnar, George Smith, Elizabeth Meadows, William Barham(again), Charles Ling, Horace Gilbert

1871 William and Arthur Ling and Frank and Frederic Newman admitted Also S.A.
Underwood E. Jordan, Jane Saunders, Cornelia Barham, A. Underwood
Arthur and Henrietta admitted
Thomas Mowson and John Buckles admitted
George Barham and Alfred Charlton given leave to go to work
Henrietta and Sabina Good removed from the register
Lucy Mattin left to go into service
The 4 Pooley children left the village
The 3 Ling children left the village

1872 Jane Paternoster suspended after being rude to the Pupil teacher

1874 Frederic Paternoster admitted to school aged 3 today – 24th April
The following not fit to be presented; Anne Bailey, Charlie Algar, Elizabeth Jordan, Frank Newman, Alice Mowson, Henry Mattin
Martha Bailey left school with a good character

1875 John Battle and William Paternoster
Sept. The Able Family, William Betts and E. Cornwall left the village.
H. Buckles left to work for Lord Rendlesham

1876 William Barham sent to school (Ag Chd Act)
William Barham returned to school after wandering about for a week
All the Paternoster children taken stone picking by their mother for 2 weeks
William Barham dismissed for bad behaviour

1877 Mrs. Barham came into school about her little girl, (Agnes) being marked on the arm by the Pupil Teacher. The Pupil teacher or monitor knew nothing about it. Mother said she would slap the P.T.'s face if it happened again. Agnes was suspended
Agnes Barham allowed back in school
Elica Mays and Ellen Mowson both left to go into service.

William Paternoster granted a certificate to go to work as he was over 9 years, passed 2nd standard and made over 250 attendances during the last 2 years.
Harriet Barham left to go into service
John Mays, naughty boy, brought in by mother to be punished

1878 Admitted Anna Maria, Sarah Jane and Charles Henry Self. Father requested that the children be withdrawn from Scripture lessons. (Education Act 1870)
John Knights left to go to Wickham Market School. (He passed all subject at 6th standard)
Harriet Buckle absent for some time.
Henry Newson distinguished himself in RK exam

No mention of children's name from 1879 to 1884 except one in 1880, stating that there had been several cases of bad discipline and one child was brought before the Managers

1884 Margaret Charlton left to go into service

1885 William and Arthur Gibbs left to go into an orphanage

1888 Razen Knights withdrawn, bad behaviour
Harry Markham punished for smoking in the school porch
Willie Newson caned for laziness and insolence

Charles Barker returned after broken arm

1889 John Orford and Harry Markham expelled for misconduct out of school
Rose Pinner, attendance cancelled as she was sent by the Rector to pick strawberries.

1890 Battles sent home for school money

1894 J. and William Mays caught stealing small things from school
Fred Pooley chastised for bringing in nest with young
Mays brothers came without lunch, sent home
Mays family from Ashe Corner brought no lunch for 2 weeks, scrounging from younger children
Nelly Barham, very poor attendance
Louisa Mays not made a full week's attendance for 3 years
Mills family, Bucks' Head requested to keep the children at home
Gerty Gibbs ill in Ipswich Hospital

1895 Nelly Barham illegally employed
George Mays sent home, clothes in dreadful state of exposure.

1896 George Mays illegally employed by Mr. Brown
George Mays aged 11 years has been working at Ashmore Hall, Apr. to Aug.
Henry Culpeck stone picking.

1897 Harry Mays caned for stealing
Thomas Beedon caned for bad language

1898 John Mays, Attendance Officer visited home
John Mays in school after 9 weeks absence

1899 Punished William Cook, John Ling, Jason Mays, John Mays for truancy