

# Bamford School Log Book

## The first 10 years (1863-1872)

These are the earliest log book entries that we have for the school. We have not found any log books for the period 1841-1863.

The main subjects taught were scripture, geography, reading, writing, arithmetic, singing (mostly hymns) and needlework (girls). Scripture appears to have been taught on all or most days. The 1860s log book entries show little variation week by week and there is no mention of what we might view as 'fun' or 'extras' for the children. Even Christmas appears to pass with no change to the usual routine. Some of the older children were half-timers: half time at school and half time working at the Mill.

Church and School were closely inter-twined. The Rector visited and taught at the School and the children were taken to Church services. In addition, children were expected to attend Sunday School. The benefactors, Mr and Mrs Moore also visited from time to time. Children were punished for bad behaviour; parents sometimes objected to punishments but there was little they could do.

Holidays were sometimes given for local fairs and events. Also, many families kept their children off school for local holidays such as Bamford Wakes Week. Children were also kept home to help with haymaking, bilberry picking and so on. Fear of infectious disease also led parents to keep their children home. However, these early log book entries rarely mention any health matters or illnesses.

*"The boy's ears pulled for his careless stupidity." (25 Sept 1863)*

*"Strange fact. The mill has stopped. Numbers in the Upper Classes ought to be doubled but unfortunately are less than usual. This shows how blind the parents are to the interests of their own children." (17 Sept 1863)*

*"Visit of Mrs. Moore to divide the money in clothing club among the children." (9 May 1864)*

*"Punished several boys for misconduct at Church yesterday." (23 Oct 1865)*

*"Several of the village farmers called today about their Tithe Payments." (4 Feb 1864)*

*"The Half Timers are now all returned to their work as the mill is again working." (7 Mar 1864)*

*"Seven children late this morning. Kept in as a punishment. One or two of the parents came and made a scene on the ground that the children would be late at the Mill and fined." (4 Dec 1865)*

*"Holiday today. The Bamford Flower Show Day." (4 Sept 1867)*

*"Standard V is the worst I believe in School – the most backward and with the least amount of brains." (17 Dec 1868)*

*"Half Holiday this afternoon to allow the children to attend Hope Fair." (13 May 1869)*

*"The poetry had been learned fairly by rote . . . with one exception the children had not the slightest knowledge." (7 June 1872)*

*"Not very good attendance as good many children are gone to pick Bilberries on the moors." (8 August 1869)*

*"W Hobson and {?} Dennis exceedingly stupid and inattentive to day. Lessons for Sunday not at all well repeated. Twelve kept back to re-learn their collects and Hymns." (11 Aug 1865)*

*"Shrove Tuesday. Children kept up old custom of 'barring master out'. Gave them a holiday in the afternoon." (9 Feb 1864)*

*"Attendance much smaller this weekday. Owing chiefly to the beginning of the hay harvest." (27 June 1864)*

*"Mrs Moore called this afternoon and examined the sewing. The Incumbent spoke to many of the absentees from Sunday School and told them that unless they came to school on Sunday, they could not be admitted on weekdays." (12 Dec 1864)*

*"Very small attendance. Many of the first-class scholars kept at home to work in the fields." (2 Sept 1867)*

*"Very poor attendance. This is Bamford Wakes Week and many of the children are consequently kept at home for a holiday by their parents" (8 Oct 1866)*

*"Several late in the morning. W Revel, Maria Darwent and Thomas Rymer being half timers were sent to school by the manager, Mr Haslam the next half day instead of working at the Mill as a caution to them." (6 Sept 1864)*