

# Bamford School Log Books – Lessons & Learning

The log books give an insight into what children were taught in school from 1863 to 1940. Over time lessons became more varied and interesting; the 1800s were heavily focused on rote learning and religious education. By 1940 the syllabus was more varied but some things were unchanged.

## The 1800s (1863-1899)

Lessons mentioned include; religious instruction, arithmetic, reading, geography, singing, and poetry. In the early years the Incumbent (Rector) taught the children scripture most days. There was much rote learning and recitation.

The school employed a sewing mistress for the girls. In 1891 drawing lessons were introduced and in 1893 evening cookery lessons were mentioned. In 1898 science was taught. Geography and history were firmly focused on both England and Empire. The infants had ‘object lessons’.

Many children were half-timers who worked half time at the mill.

- Sept 1874 “the great difficulty in the way of religious teaching in this school is the half time system, under which a good half of the children attend”
- Nov 1874 “half-timers ... are decidedly the dullest and most backward children in the school, this is the result of their being kept at home until old enough to go to work.

## 1898 Tuition Plan sent to H.M.I. for approval:

### Recitation

- Stds IV-VII ‘The Combat’ Scott
- Stds I-III ‘Fidelity’ Wordsworth

### A. Class Subjects

- Stds IV – VII: **History** - 20 stories and biographies from earliest times to 1603.
- Stds I – III: **Elementary Science**. 30 lessons: 1 Springs, 2 Wells, 3 Canals, 4 Fountains, 5 Pumps, 6 Things that dissolve, 7 Things that melt, 8 Things porous, 9 Mines & Minerals, 10 Properties of minerals, 11 Coal gas, 12 Steam, 13 Air & Wind, 14 Fogs , 15 Mariners compass, 16 Knives, 17 Rope, 18 Sugar, 19 Soap, 20 Paper, 21 Horse, 22 Kangaroo, 23 Crocodile, 24 Eagle, 25 Stork, 26 Postage Stamp, 27 Coins, 28 Bread, 29 Butter, 30 Cheese.

### Boys’ Geography

- Stds I-II: Plan of school. Cardinal points. Size and shape of world. Geog. Terms
- Sd III: Geography of England.
- Stds IV-VII: British Empire, Circumstance that determine climate.

### Girls’ needlework

### Infants Object Lessons:

- Same as Elementary Science. Nos 16 to 30 above.

## The 1900s (1900-1940)

The syllabus became more varied but much more striking was the increase in extracurricular activities, trips out and fun!

As a church school, religious instruction remained a core subject and there was a close relationship with the Rector. In 1906 a school library was opened, followed by boys’ handiwork lessons in 1911 and gardening in 1915. Chess Club was mentioned in the 1930s and swimming lessons began at Hathersage. Empire Day was marked each year with relevant lessons.

- Oct 1933 “The children are happy and work with vigour and interest ... English, Arithmetic, History and Geography are all very good throughout the school: the Art work reaches a creditable standard ... the school garden and workshop are centres of interest and are a reflection of the Headmaster’s personal enthusiasm and skills”

## Extra Activities and Trips

- Dec 1896 “Mrs Ward sent an orange for each child ... concert held in the evening”
- Jan 1897 “Mrs Ward brought a shuttlecock and battledore for every girl and boy”
- July 1899 “choir trip to Blackpool, the school is closed”
- Dec 1899 “holiday tomorrow on account of the annual Minstrel Entertainment”
- Nov 1907 “the school football team played Derwent House School today”.
- May 1908 “the junior choir was awarded first prize at the Buxton festival yesterday”
- May 1909 “school closed for two days for the Buxton and North Derbyshire musical festival”
- Jan 1911 “started a debating society”
- April 1917 “there is a large school garden ... dug up for growing potatoes”
- Dec 1917 “wounded soldiers from the Hathersage V.A.D. Hospital and the parents were entertained. The children sang carols after which the soldiers were provided with a tea which had been brought by the children”
- July 1918 “suggests that the remainder of the land shall be cultivated as a strawberry bed and rock garden”
- Oct 1920 “the children ... went by motor to Belle Vue where a most enjoyable and instructive day was spent”
- Dec 1921 “the children gave ... two performances of the Operetta ‘Maritana’ in the Village Institute in aid of the Village Nursing Association”
- May 1926 “36 children ... went by bus to Castleton and ascended Mam tor, visited Blue John Cavern etc”
- May 1928 “I purchased a lathe which I shall take back to school for the use of the boys in the new handiwork shed”
- July 1928 “the two top classes went to the Recreation ground at 3.15 for games, races, handicapping in preparation for Hope Valley Sports”
- Feb 1929 – “Yesterday 28 children, Miss Otter, Mr Dearnley and myself went by charabanc to Great Hucklow and witnessed ‘As you like it’ given by the Village Players”
- Dec 1934 “Christmas party was held with a giant Christmas tree, presents, entertainers, fruit tea etc ... Wilfred Hopkinson has won the Chess Championship”