

Bamford School Log Books - Health & Welfare

The log books recorded many entries about illness and disease. School closures were very common and the log book also records times when parents were reluctant to send their children to school for fear of disease. In addition, there are many entries about accidents and injuries to children and staff. With no vaccinations, measles was a common childhood disease which could lead to brain damage, loss of hearing or vision, and death. Scarlet fever was also common and much harder to treat before the widespread use of antibiotics. Influenza was ever present: the village did not escape the 1918 pandemic.

In 1892 the log book gives an account of a scarlet fever outbreak:

- March "owing to the fever and sickness it has been thought advisable to close the school for the remainder of the week".
- April "re-opened the school but owing to 3 or 4 fresh cases of fever breaking out last week the attendance has not improved in the least only 18 children being present all day. During the time the school has been closed two of the infants have died from the Fever – viz Rosie Gillies and Herbert Hobson"
- April "no children from outside the village being present the parents will not send them on account of the fever"
- May "sickness still continues in the village therefore attendance does not improve. The Thornhill children have left and gone to Hope School on this account"
- May "visited several of the parents this week but they are still afraid of allowing their children to come to school though there are no fresh cases of fever."

Health Education

In 1932 was the first mention of 'Health Week'. This continued for many years and would, I imagine, have educated children on health matters.

- October 1932 - the two senior classes walked to Bradwell leaving school at 2 pm to see pictures in connection with Health week.

Welfare

Welfare support was limited in the 1800s ranging from admission to the workhouse to free breakfasts the cold winter months

- Feb 1894 – Tomkinson's children left – gone to the workhouse.
- 1892 - in consequence of the very severe weather the Rector has provided a free breakfast of bread and milk in the Schoolrooms for all the children who come in for it.

Other Excerpts:

- June 1872 - Owing to fear of fever the school has been very thinly attended. None of the Thornhill children or any of the children outside the village have attended.
- September 1901 – School closed by order of Sanitary Authority for a fortnight on account of measles.
- December 1904 – School has been closed this week until this morning owing to the illness of Head Master, who has been laid up with influenza.
- September 1908– Willie Burton, whose parents reside at Wood Lane, has been removed to the Sheffield Infirmary suffering from diphtheria.
- March 1911 - on the recommendation of Dr Bennett, all the children residing at the Wood Lane Huts have been sent home owing to the outbreak of scarlet fever.
- Sept 1912 - school closed for two weeks by order of School Medical Officer of Health owing to prevalence of whooping cough.
- Dec 1913 – Fever worse, school closed until Jan 5th 1914 by order of the School Medical Officer of Health.
- 12 March 1915 – Letter from Dr Barwise received excluding Fred Williams on account of tuberculosis.
- Dec 1918 – School re-opened after being closed four weeks owing to influenza.
- August 1924 – attendance very poor, many of those absent have whooping cough.
- Feb 1928 - 33 children absent mostly with measles. Measles epidemic in village.

School Medical Services

From 1908, the log book records visits by the School Doctor and School Nurse. Children were examined including weighing, measuring, head inspections as well as mental and physical examinations. In 1920, the Dentist began to come into school.

- March 1917– Nurse Dunphy weighed and measured the children of 12, 8 and 5 years of age.
- March 1917 – Dr Hannah and Nurse Dumphy visited the school this morning and examined children of 12, 8 and 5 years of age also entrants.
- May 1929 - The School M.O. Dr Bryan called this morning to examine physical defections.
- 9 Dec 1929 – Dr Bryan today conducted mental tests on eleven children of 8 years old.
- June 1920 - the School Dentist visited the school this morning and examined the teeth of fifty of the children.
- July 1920 - the Headmaster took twelve children to the Clinic at Chinley today to have their teeth attended to.
- July 1929 – a lady dentist today examined all children's teeth.