

Shipleigh School Log Book for Boys' 1905 – 1917

This is an analysis of key issues affecting the school. It is not a direct transcript. The analysis is mine, and I have highlighted consistent themes under headings which are as follows:

Staff

Average attendances

Causes of absence

Regular visitors to the school

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

Subjects studied and games played

HM Inspector and academic achievement

National events, celebrations and outings

Fabric of school building

Points of interest

Children mentioned by name

From 1914 to 1917 there is an additional heading – Events related to 1914 – 1918 War

We do not have Admissions or Attendance Registers for this period so names of pupils is necessarily restricted to those who are specifically mentioned in the Log Book for a particular reason.

Mr William Bacon

Mr William Bacon was Headmaster of Shipleigh Boys' School from 14th June 1876 until his retirement on 14th December 1917. (41 years and 6 months). He was a prolific writer and gives insight into the social conditions of the day. He frequently acted as handyman when drains became blocked or when essential repairs were needed. He acted as nurse when children were injured or collapsed. He recorded the details of the curriculum so that we may understand today the wide ranging subjects the children of the time experienced. After his retirement the school became co-educational under the headship of Miss Annie Penn.

William Bacon appears to have been a firm but kind disciplinarian with a keen understanding of the conditions of deprivation which some pupils endured. He fed one boy from his own table; he was anguished to know that some boys suffered blisters through wearing boots too tight for them, and he sympathised with the children of the "poor, illiterate, itinerant classes" whose schooling and life chances were severely curtailed by constant interruptions in education. He understood the effects of extreme temperatures on the pupils both in winter and summer. On hot summer days the boys became lethargic and unable to concentrate while in winter the temperature was regularly recorded as 46°F – 50°F degrees (8°C - 10°C), sometimes much lower. One boy suffered such severe chilblains he was unable to attend school. With one coal fire at the front of the classroom those out of its range remained cold. Coal frequently ran out and Mr Bacon on one occasion chopped up old fencing. Coats and shoes that got wet on the way to school stood no chance of drying out.

The Log Book highlights some of the events affecting the school and pupils as a result of the Great War and gives a unique and otherwise unknown insight into the role the school played in the village at this time. It mentions new Government directives such as the allowing of boys aged 12 to leave school early to work as agricultural labourers. 12 boys took up this option, but each had to be approved by the Education Authority. Greater economy was encouraged with coal, and fires were not lit until November. Mr Bacon supervised the collecting of eggs for despatch to hospitals for injured soldiers, chestnuts for sending to the Government for processing as explosive material and paper and foil for recycling. He also recorded collections for the Red Cross and Star and Garter Homes. The boys contributed to a fund for handkerchiefs for sending to wounded soldiers in hospital, for which thank you letters were received. Every boy sent a penny towards the King's Overseas Fund for sending gifts to soldiers and sailors and each

received an illuminated manuscript and a copy of Queen Alexandra's letter. The generosity of people who had so very little at this time is moving.

Mr Bacon was enthralled to see cavalry carrying out manoeuvres in the parish in conjunction with aeroplanes. He wrote "These military movements were a novelty for Shipley – nothing of the kind has occurred in my experience of 40 years." He took tea and cakes to a detachment of soldiers parked outside Kingsland. He was always very moved when old boys "in khaki" visited the school, on one occasion, just prior to their posting "to the seat of war". He recorded that one boy was unable concentrate as his brother was a prisoner of war and his father was fighting in France. He was responsible for keeping up to date the Shipley Roll of Honour of men who had volunteered to serve their country. We know from later log books that this Roll of Honour was taken out every Armistice Day and children said prayers for the fallen, but sadly this document appears no longer to exist.

Mr Bacon lived at School House (now a part of the School) with his wife and two daughters". Mrs Bacon frequently helped out in both the Boys' and Girls' Schools when staff were absent. Mr Bacon grew vegetables and plants in his garden and used many of these in his "Object Lessons". He worked tirelessly for the school and coped with conditions that would be unacceptable today. Judging by the number of old boys who visited the school he gained the respect of his pupils. A letter published in the Parish Magazine in 1915 thanking the parishioners of Shipley who had collected for gifts to be sent to all men serving their country is testament to the excellence of his teaching. (Shortly to be published on this website).

Mr Bacon was an extraordinary man, and on this, the centenary of his retirement I should like to express my admiration and respect of him.

Jean Wright

Shipley History Society

November 2017

Synopsis of 1905

Staff Mr William Bacon (who had been Head Master since 14 June 1876)

Average attendances

- Summer term (from June) 94.5% Roll: + / - 47
- Autumn term 95% Roll: + / - 46

Causes of absence

- Illness : accidents, diarrhoea and sickness caused by heat and drought in July
- Weather: Heavy rain and floods
- Local events: Fishing at Knepp Pond – an event held every 10 years to reduce fish stock. Described as ‘an attractive sight’. Beaters for local shoots, Horsham Fair.

Regular visitors to school

- Vicar (correspondent) – The Rev. E. Arkle. (See points of interest)
- SAO – Mr Brooks, (Mr Cripps during illness of Mr Brooks)

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Ascension Day was observed ‘as usual’ (as a Sunday)
- Confirmation of a pupil entitled all children to a half day holiday
- A day’s holiday given for Whit Monday
- Diocesan Inspector was Hugh Hordern, who reported that although ‘the master had done steady and thorough work throughout the year the children were not especially prepared for examination, and that the Lower Division did not do themselves justice’. The older boys were described as having passed a very ‘creditable examination’.

Subjects studied and games played

- **Object lessons** were held weekly. Items frequently drawn as part of drawing practice.
 - A bee, a pocket knife, a dandelion, snake sloughs, soda, a plate, the ivy plant, powders (illustrated with practical experiments)
- **A collective lesson** was given weekly on various subjects including:
 - Union Jack, Map of Sussex, Map of the World, Map of England, Parts of Speech, Mountains and Hills of England, things that are porous.
- **Drawing practice:** Nelson’s Drawing Course Stage 3 and Bacon’s New Art Geometry received in September.
- **Syllabus subjects:** King Alfred Readers commenced in September, Upper Division said to be making good progress with geography of Australia.
- **Games:** outdoor drill in good weather, inside when wet or muddy – mentioned regularly, but no record of any games having been played.
- **Songs taught** –The Joyous Huntsman

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- Boys had to sit a ‘Labour Certificate Examination’ in order to leave school.
- End of term exams held in July and December. End of year exams held in March.
- HMI visited in October and inspected log books, registers, syllabus, record book, examination work and witnessed lessons.
- Education Office sent a copy of ‘Suggestions for the Consideration of Teachers and others concerned in the work of Public Elementary Schools’.

National events, celebrations and outings

- The Choir took part in the Choral Festival in Horsham in June.
- School treat held at end of July was given by Sir Merrick and Lady Burrell at Knepp Castle.
- The Choir annual outing was held in September.

Fabric of school building

- Heavy rain in June flooded back passage to girls lobby. Mr Bacon cleared the drain.
- Pump out of order during drought so water supplied from house pump.
- During holidays chimneys swept and school cleaned, hedges trimmed and ditches cleaned.
- Playground unfit for use during prolonged wet weather, mud brought in daily is 'deplorable'.

Points of interest

- A half day holiday was given monthly for 'good attendance' – 90% overall monthly attendance required to qualify.
- Grants for good attendance during the year from the Andrews Charity were distributed by the vicar at Christmas.
- Children were given weekly attendance slips to take home – two boys consistently tore them up and scattered pieces on way home. Certificates were given to boys who achieved 95% attendance over a quarter.
- Great heat in July gave some boys headaches and prevented them from working 'thoroughly'. Some said to be 'prostrated with heat' as temperatures reached 77°F (25°C)
- School supplies ordered and delivered half yearly
- Sunday School teachers annual assembly held at Warnham in September.
- The Rev. Arkle resigned his living in June 1905 and left the Vicarage in October. He continued to visit the school.
- Dense fog and dark afternoons in December appeared to depress boys so examinations postponed.
- On the last day of term before Christmas Mr Bacon distributed the Shoe Club money 'with bonus'.
- Outdoor drill had to be cancelled during wet weather due to muddy conditions.

Children mentioned by name

Adams, Frank	Illness
Bates, David	Escorted Charley Laker home after accident
Bates, Douglas	Consistently attended wearing a short kilt and no boots or shoes, enjoyed wallowing in mud. Advised by HMI to dress appropriately now he was getting older
Brown, James	Illness
Denman, George	Illness
Goacher, James	Referred to as a cripple
Goacher, John	Misbehaviour then absent while helping parents
Laker, Charley	Accident – dislocated elbow
Laker, Henry	Illness then left neighbourhood
Lucas, Willie	Illness
Naldret, -	Visiting past pupil
Payne, Bernard	New entrant
Rapley, Sidney	Described as 'a poor delicate boy of weak intellect' who had a nearly hatched egg forced down his throat.

Rowland, R	Misbehaviour
Streeter, Ernest	Gained labour certificate
Warnett, Arthur)	Withdrawn at aged 14
Wells, William	New entrant
Williams, Harry	Gained Labour Certificate

Synopsis of 1906

Staff Mr William Bacon, Headmaster

Average attendances

- Winter term 90% Roll: 43
- Summer term 95% Roll: 45 – 47
- Autumn term 96% Roll: 43 – 45

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – heavy rain, floods, snowstorm
- Truancy (rare)
- Illness – chickenpox, meningitis (1), measles, tonsillitis, mumps, many unspecified, probably coughs and colds. One child coughing up blood (TB?)
- Local activities and fetes etc, boys beating in pheasant shooting season

Regular visitors to school

- SAO -Mr Brooks, Deputy SAO – Mr Cripps
- Vicar and Correspondent The Rev. A.G. Baker (first visit in February)
- Miss Hopton (mentioned once, no explanation of her role. A member of affluent family in village, may have been associated with charitable activities)

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- The retiring Vicar, the Rev. Arkle, visited in March to distribute prizes and give a farewell address to the boys.
- The new Vicar, the Rev. Baker, began taking prayers and giving scripture lessons to the Upper Division in March.
- Half day holiday given on 6th April to allow attendance at funeral of the brother of Miss Penn – Mistress of the Girls' School – brother was a sailor torpedo instructor and was drowned in an accident at Dover Pier on 28th March.
- Diocesan examinations held on 31st May. It was held by the Rev. Hugh Hordern of Singleton Rectory who arrived by motor car. The report advised that Mr Bacon should have help with the Lower Division as only a few boys seemed to have learned anything, but that the Upper Division had made good progress.

Subjects studied and games played

General Syllabus: Scale drawing, drawing of objects from memory, composition, oral composition, geography, arithmetic (metric system mentioned), mapping (miniature maps of parish), nature study (wild flowers, bird song recorded, a live bat, a mole and a swift observed). A new set of readers for the Upper Division included Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selbourne*. A visit to the hop gardens of Mr Stanford was arranged in July. The boys returned via Ashbrooks, Drummers Barn and the Vicarage meadow and wild flowers were gathered then catalogued with any peculiarities being explained. Two boys measured and drew plan of playground with a 66 ft. tape lent by a father. This generated much interest.

Games: Mr CE Hogg donated two cricket bats, a ball and bails in July. The boys used a composition lesson to write a thank you letter. This is the first mention of a game being played. Until this, physical activity appeared to be restricted to drill. The first games of cricket and rounders were played in September in accordance with new codes recently published. One hour on Wednesdays became 'games days'. Games had to be played in the playground after the Vicarage meadow had to be given time to recover after a drought and heavy use by cricket and games. In poor conditions games were abandoned.

Object lesson (objects were discussed and some were drawn). Subjects included:

A horse shoe, teeth, an orange, flint and steel gunlock (used to demonstrate uses of flint and steel and dangers of gunpowder), a bell, a bowler hat, a paraffin lamp, an egg, a nightingale's nest, a book, a daisy, a toothbrush, a

foxglove, a buttercup, cocoa, a cricket bat, a duplex lamp, an onion gone to seed, an axe and tenon saw, an acorn, hops, a runner bean, copper, a mushroom, beaks of various birds, things that are porous (illustrated by use of loaf sugar, salt, bread, blotting paper and coloured ink), soluble substances, a pair of hedge clipping shears, Union Jack, snow.

Collective lesson: Subjects included: Map of England, Map of Sussex, a Plan of the School and Playground, Map of the World, telling the time, solids and liquids, plastic substances.

Songs learned: The British Grenadiers, John Peel, Hark the Bonny, A Southerly Wind

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- Prize giving was held in March. There were 30 illuminated certificates, 15 medals and 25 prize books. The certificates were signed by the vicar.
- Labour examinations were held on 5th May and 3 November. Notices posted outside school. Children travelled to Horsham by the 9.10am train from Southwater. Three failed in November, a foregone conclusion in two cases as they were qualified to attend only by age.
- HMI visited in July. He observed normal routine and tested Upper Division in geography, approved new readers and told anecdote about Ben Lomond. He asked about new Codes recently distributed, but which had not yet arrived at Shipley.
- New timetable approved and signed by HMI on 9 November.

National events, celebrations and outings

- May Day was marked by the old custom of going around the parish with garlands.
- Holiday given for Coolham Club fete.
- Ascension Day was observed 'as a Sunday', and also being Empire Day a talk was given and the National Anthem sung.
- Club fete at the Burrell Arms on 21st July – boys were let out early at 3.20pm having worked extra time in lunch hour.
- School treat was given at the Vicarage at the end of summer term.
- Choir outing held at end of summer term.

Fabric of school building

- School, yards and offices thoroughly cleaned during holidays
- Temperature in school on 23rd March was 38°F (3°C). On 30th March temperature recorded as 12° of frost (minus 7°C).
- A builder, Mr Summersell, visited in July to note defects in the building.
- Minor repairs, including insertion of air bricks in north wall, and redecoration and cleaning of the school took place during the summer vacation.
- First fire of the season lit on 26th October when indoor temperature was 45°F (7°C).
- Mr Hummersell replaced broken iron entrance gate with an oak gate in November.

Points of interest

- School closed on Friday 26th January as Parliamentary elections were taking place.
- Mr Mortimer, father of John, donated a flint and steel gunlock to the school museum and subsequently donated a brass tinder box and steel, a brass pricker and brush. He had formerly exported these items to the Cape for 'use by the natives'. He also gave a specimen of the granite of London Bridge.
- Annual certificates and prize medals received in February from S Price and Co.
- Rain, ice and mud in playground in winter prevented outdoor drill. In poor weather drill takes place inside.
- E Venn was said to be 'absent all week at work'. Does this refer to an assistant teacher or other member of staff? There is no other mention so far of other staff.

- Gen. Sir William Stirling-Hamilton visited in March. Reason for visit not given, but he inspected lobby, playground and offices and had friendly discussion on school matters.
- Wryneck heard on 6th April, nightingale and cuckoo heard on 11th April.
- An un-named orphan was admitted in April who stammers and has difficulty beginning to speak. Mr Bacon consistently shows great compassion for boys with problems, even for the badly behaved boys.
- On 25 May Mr Bacon wrote to the Education Committee thanking them for the increase in salary.
- From 1st April the official number of the school became 119. The LEA was 'West Sussex and Chichester Joint Education Committee'. The school was previously classified to the Education Department in London as 16,834.
- On 14th May Mr Bacon recorded it was his '30th anniversary as teacher of this school'.
- Mr Bacon fell from a stool placed on a desk while he was winding the clock and sprained his knee. He recorded that he needed a step ladder.
- In June boys cautioned against bathing in the muddy brook as it makes them unfit for work in the afternoons. This was during a hot period when the inside temperature was recorded as 75°F (24°C).
- A height chart was received from the Education Authority and in accordance with instructions pasted on the school door. Chest measurements were also taken.
- Frederick Woolven, described as a boarding out child, was given leave of absence for an afternoon as 'his father called at mid-day and asked for him as he hadn't seen him for a long time'.
- Shoe Club money paid out on 21st December with bonus.

Children mentioned by name

Adams, Alfred	Absentee
Adams, Frederick	Illness
Agate, Arthur	Intellectually unable to pass Labour Certificate and likely to be disruptive until he left at 14
Bates, David	Withdrawn aged 14
Brown, James	Illness
Denman, George	Illness, tonsils removed
Faires, Edmund	Accident on bicycle
Faires, Wilfred	Illness, later described as delicate and withdrawn on doctor's orders.
Goacher, John	Withdrawn aged 14
Gratwick, Frederick	Illness
Jeffery, Alfred	Left district in March
Jeffery, William	Bad behaviour and lateness. Mr Bacon reluctant to punish as boy had recently nearly died and had been prayed for in Church. Reported to SAO who warned of transfer to reformatory school. Left district in March
Johnson, Percy	Withdrawn aged 14
Knight, John	Transferred from Coolham School
Laker, Charley	Measured and drew plan of playground
Merritt, Ernest	Measured and drew plan of playground
Mortimer, John	His father donated a gunlock for the school museum
Mortimer, John	Illness – tonsillitis
Payne, Bernard	Transferred to Southwater School
Rapley, Sidney	illness – cough and spitting blood

Ratcliffe, Harold	New entrant
Roberts, Sydney	Withdrawn for farm work as over 14 years old.
Russell, Reginald	Withdrawn aged 14
Stepney, Dudley	Meningitis – subsequently said by SAO as unlikely ever to return, but re-admitted several months later, then withdrawn again.
Sturt, Henry	Illness
Venn, Edward	Withdrawn aged 14
Woolven, Frederick	A boarding out child

Synopsis of 1907

Staff Mr William Bacon (Head Master)
Miss Edith Mary Freeman (Monitress) took up post as assistant on 21 June.

Average attendances

- Winter term 92.6% Roll: 41 – 43
- Summer term 95.7% Roll: 47
- Autumn term 93.5% Roll: 44 – 46

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – heavy rain, snow,
- Illness – influenza, coughs and colds, measles,
- Local events – Coolham Club Fete, harvest, hop-picking, Michaelmas mowing.

Regular visitors to school

- SAO – Mr Brooks
- Vicar – Rev. Baker (Correspondent)
- HMI – Mr Witcombe

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day were 'observed as a Sunday'.
- Notice of Diocesan inspection received on 3 May. Inspection took place on 19 May. No details given.

Subjects studied and games played

Object lessons (objects were frequently drawn as part of drawing practice): the fox, a stone jar, a lamp globe, a vase, ivy, catkins, a daffodil (a fortnight late this year), primrose, periwinkle' a child's drinking mug suspended, teeth, a cocoa pod and beans, dwarf beans, foxglove, buttercup, a carrot, candles, paraffin, a paraffin lamp.

Collective lessons: History – the coming of the Romans, Parts of Speech, oral composition, Life of Sir Francis Drake, vowels and consonants, grammar and composition, plan of the school and playground, Map of the Parish, Map of the World, a river, Map of England and Wales.

Songs learned : Men of Harlech, The Excursion Train (taught by Sol fa method), Cock Robin, The Blue Bells of Scotland.

General Syllabus: Geography (Australia and Europe mentioned), scale drawing, free arm drawing, memory drawing, history, arithmetic, decimals and mensuration, mental arithmetic (10 minutes practice each day), spelling, geometry, a new set of Pitman's Commercial Reader obtained for Upper Standards, nature study (much emphasis on identifying wild flowers), composition, (one lesson spent on writing a job application as practice for composition).

Games: Drill, including dumb bell practice, held weekly (indoors when conditions outside unsuitable), cricket in summer term (had to wait until the Vicarage meadow was available after haymaking).

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- HMI visited regularly and inspected exam papers, records, registers and administration paperwork. Boys said to be pleased to see him as he told them anecdotes which they enjoyed.
- Labour Certificate Examination notification received in March and October. Notices were posted on wall outside School. In May it was noted that both boys failed but that a girl had passed.
- End of term examinations held each term.

National events, celebrations and outings

- Half day holiday given in May for Coolham Club Fete.
- Empire Day was celebrated with an address and singing of the National Anthem
- Choir outing held in August.

Fabric of school building

- School thoroughly cleaned during holidays.
- School pump frozen in January – temperature of 17°F (-8°C) recorded in February. In mid-October fires started when temperature fell to 50°F (10°C).
- Cess pits emptied by Mr Roberts in February.
- Two roller towel racks fitted in boys' cloak room
- During summer vacation work was started in laying a drain to the cess pit and repairs made to drain area at back of School House.

Points of interest

- Grants for good attendance from the Andrews Charity were distributed in January.
- Faggots delivered by Parker & Wakeford in January.
- Prize books and certificates presented by Vicar and his sister in March. One boy received a gilt medal for three years perfect attendance.
- In January the boys gained the highest place on official lists of attendance in West Sussex.
- Down to one day's supply of coal in February as there had been no deliveries since May despite being told the school had six tons allocated in August. One and a half tons delivered the following week.
- Miss Moseley, the visiting physical instructress, took drill and tested eyesight in April. Physical measurements and eye testing took place again in September.
- A weighing machine was received following above visit, and all boys weighed without boots and jackets. It was returned to the Education Office in Horsham the following week.
- An old boy currently serving on HMS Dreadnought brought in a cocoa pod on his return home from the West Indies. It was used as an object lesson.
- A friend of the Vicar put mental arithmetic questions to the boys. They were able to answer correctly, validating the 10 minutes practice spent each day.
- Until the appointment of Miss Freeman in June there had been no other mention of another teacher, and she is not subsequently mentioned during the current year.
- Several boys charged with wilful damage 'to Mr Wells's seed onions by stone throwing'. Mr Bacon had earlier warned them against this, and had administered corporal punishment recently to some 'troublesome' boys.
- Four boys punished in August for throwing stones at a man and boy working horses with a clod crusher in field adjoining school.
- Half day holiday given in September for teachers' annual outing – this year to Warnham.
- Wasps were a nuisance in September – children stung daily – relief given by application of ammonia. Mr Brown and Mr Pugh destroyed a large nest near school with cyanide of potassium, and reported they had destroyed 337 nests since 1 September.
- On a wet day one boy arrived soaked and Mr Bacon sent his coat to his house to be dried and lent him another. An example of Mr Bacon's thoughtful care.
- Mr Bacon obtained from the Education Office a letter allowing Albert Sturt to be seen at Sussex Eye Hospital. Another example of compassionate care.
- Several boys reprimanded in November for leaving school during lunch time to look at high floods and indulging in 'venturesome actions'.

- School closed on 4th December by order of the Education Authority on account of an outbreak of measles. It remained close until January.

Boys mentioned by name

Bates, Douglas	Wore boots to school for the first time in November
Bates, Edward	Withdrawn aged 14
Brown, J	Illness – sore throat, cold
Brown, James	A delicate boy reported by his doctors never to be fit for school again
Crees, Freddy	Illness – sore throat, cold
Edwards, William	Temporary pupil from Horsham while his mother was nursing her mother, Mrs Johnson, at Knights.
Faires, Edmund	Withdrawn for work as butcher boy at age 14
Gratwick, Frederick	Punished for stone throwing
Howard, Joseph	Temporary pupil from Worthing while his mother in hospital
Kingsnorth, Frank	Withdrawn aged 14
Knight, John	Illness
Laker, Charley	Absentee
Merritt, Ernest	Three years perfect attendance
Pugh, J	Illness – sore throat, cold
Rapley, Dennis	Illness – earache
Roberts, Albert	Illness – infectious
Roberts, William	Illness – Infectious
Rowland, Robert	Cautioned for throwing mud
Sheppard, David	New entrant – son of policeman at West Grinstead. Withdrawn for work before reaching 14. Described as a fine robust boy.
Sturt, Albert	New entrant. Defective eyesight
Sturt, Henry	New entrant. Withdrawn for work before reaching 14
Williams, Sydney	Talented at drawing animals
Woolven, Frederick	Absent as a measles contact

Synopsis of 1908

Staff Mr William Bacon, Head Master
Miss Edith Freeman, recorded as Monitress last year is not mentioned until November, and then not by name. She is named twice in two years – the day she started and the day she finished.

Average attendances

- Winter: 90.4% Roll: 39/40
- Summer: 94.7% Roll: 39 – 41
- Autumn: 91% Roll: 36/37

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – heavy rain, snow, snowstorm recorded on 1 May followed by rain and high floods.
- Illness – influenza, coughs and colds, measles, sprains, croup, illness or death of family members, injuries, pains from eating unripe fruit, tonsillitis, hospitalisation, rheumatism.
- Local events – Point to Point in April, haymaking

Regular visitors to school

- SAO – Mr Brooks
- Vicar – Rev. Baker (Correspondent)
- HMI – Mr Edward Burrows
- Physical instructress – Miss Davies
- Medical officer – Drs Bostock and Child

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Diocesan Examination scheduled for 22 May. The Rev. G Heath conducted the religious examination. Diocesan Certificates were given in October to those who passed the scripture exam.
- Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day observed as a Sunday.

Subjects studied and games played

Object lessons: Mistletoe, ivy, pens, a pump, a primrose, a lead pencil, bunch of oak leaves worn on 29 May, grasses freshly gathered, sponge, spiders nests, red pimpernel, mushroom, the bracken fern, ducks feet, maize, an onion, an apple, raisins, sultanas, currants,

Collective lessons: The map of England and Wales, conversational exercise based on common things, oral composition, use of adverbs, and adjectives, the lungs, plan of the school and playground, manufacture of sugar,

Drawing : Scale drawing, model drawing in chalk of a cylinder, a cube and a vase, a prism, memory drawing in chalk, items from school museum, catkins, laurel leaves and berberis, periwinkle, crocuses and hazel twigs in bloom, east window drawn to scale of half inch to the foot, daffodils, hyacinth, buds of the horse chestnut, scale drawing of a school cupboard, sprigs of withy (so called 'palm'), primroses, broom shepherd's purse, narcissus, lily of the valley. Ophioglossom Vulgatum (Adder's Tongue) whose valuable medicinal properties were explained. Wild tares, buttercups, dog rose, dewberry, a breakfast cup and saucer, maps of the Parish and County, circle and ellipse, coal scuttle, red hips, fir cones, marigolds, a garden trowel, the national flag,

General syllabus: nature study, and by inference from HMI comments, writing and composition. Specimens of handwriting and letters on note paper were submitted for the Education Show at Chichester in July. Mensuration (measuring and working out volumes and areas etc.), Algebraic Arithmetic from McDougall's Suggestive Books, Geography (Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand).

Songs learned: The Fox and A Country Farmer's Son from English Folk Songs. The Keel Row.

Games: drill and physical exercises, outdoor drill with dumb bells and staves in good weather, military drill. Cricket and football were played in the vicarage meadow as conditions permitted.

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- Examinations were held at the end of each term.
- Notices of Labour Certificate examinations to be held on 16 May and 21 November were posted outside school. Mr Bacon had to submit an official list together with birth certificates of those intending to take the exam.
- Attendances over the last 5 years had to be submitted for each boy gaining a Labour Certificate in 1908.
- Mr Bacon wrote to the Education Authority expressing willingness to send sample work for an educational show to be held in Chichester in July.
- HMI visited on 22 May and spent the morning examining record books, exam papers and term work. He found that writing in copy books to be so well done the pupils could concentrate more on composition at the expense of copy writing. He gave approval of the pupils' work and of Mr Bacon's marking and corrections.
- HMI visited on 27 November and examined records, noted work in progress, listened to singing and inspected playground and offices.

National events, celebrations and outings

- Half day holiday given in June for Choral Festival at Horsham.
- Holiday given for Whit Monday and Tuesday.
- Unusually, no mention this year of Empire Day celebrations
- School outing in July to the Franco-British Exhibition in London

Fabric of school building

- Pump frozen at beginning of January term. Mr Bacon thawed it out.
- School disinfected by burning sulphur, scrubbing and lime washing of cloakrooms during vacations. (outbreak of measles had led to school being closed in early December)
- School is thoroughly cleaned during each vacation.
- In July the playground became so dry that dust blew indoors and covered everything with a fine layer of grit.
- In September School House (Mr Bacon's home) was redecorated.

Points of interest

- Prize list of boys entitled to awards for 1907 made out in January. A bronze medal was instigated as reward for four years perfect attendance. Prizes distributed in February.
- Entertainment by West Grinstead Minstrels given on two evenings in February.
- Miss Davies, visiting Physical Training instructress, tested boys in various physical exercises and conducted eyesight tests of the 'defective scholars as shown by the Physique Register'.
- First mention of a visit by a medical officer in April. Prior to this weight and height were measured. Invitations were sent to parents of children scheduled to be examined. Several parents attended, each examination taking place privately in the Infant Room
- Ten boys ran to Dial Post in the lunch hour in April to watch the Point to Point race and were late back for afternoon school. They were cautioned against such activity and denied an attendance mark.
- New school year began on 10 April, scholars were classified and new year's work began, despite this being before the school closed for the Easter vacation.
- Four and a half tons of coal, the balance outstanding from last order, had been countermanded so that in mid-January the school had only a scuttle full left. The Vicar immediately ordered a half ton. Delivery of coal is always recorded, with frequent disputes about quantity received. Running out of fuel was a regular occurrence.

- Mr Bacon observed that one pupil was limping so examined his foot and found an open sore. He bathed and bandaged it and provided an old comfortable boot and advised him to rest for a few days. Another example of his compassion for the children in his care.
- A pupil from Coolham School was refused entry for the time being because of the measles epidemic there. Mr Bacon called personally at the child's home to explain. This indicates that the child was sent to admit himself to a new school without a parent present.
- On 29 May every boy wore a bunch of oak leaves. As few could not explain the reason for this Mr Bacon gave an object lesson on the subject.
- On 8 June a hail storm was recorded, with some stones as heavy as 6 ounces and measuring 3 inches by 2½ inches. It did much damage at Slinfold where windows were broken and trees stripped bare. In Shipley lightning struck an oak at Church Gate.
- One boy donated a flint pocket pistol by Oakes of Horsham (broken), a pair of snuffers and a piece of skeleton seaweed for the museum case.
- The boys appeared 'languid' in June when the indoor temperature reached 70°F (21°C)
- Registers were not marked one wet morning in July, when just 18 boys were present. Four children who had attended told others who were on their way for afternoon school that school had closed. They were reprimanded for this 'foolish boyish freak'.
- A Mr Stanton visited in July and gave a talk to the whole school on 'Temperance'.
- Boys had collected 7 shillings towards a new football in September. They played too long during the lunch hour and were given black attendance marks and a caution.
- Boys who were caught in a thunder storm without umbrellas or coats were made to remove jackets and dry them before the fire.
- Assistant teacher, un-named, absent two days in November to take preliminary examination in Horsham.

Boys mentioned by name

Adams, Albert	Illness – measles
Adams, Alfred	Illness – measles
Adams, Frederick	Illness – measles. Later absent due to his mother being ill. Mother died in December.
Agate, Arthur	Withdrawn for work, aged 14
Bates, Douglas	Withdrawn for work, aged 14
Booker, Stanley	New admission from Coolham School. Reprimanded for stinging smaller boys on the ears with rubber band.
Cherriman, Frederick	Transferred to Southwater School
Cooper, A	Failed to gain Labour Certificate in November
Crees, Frederick	Illness – sprained ankle – subsequently operated on at Brighton Hospital
Denman, George	Illness – bad foot
Denman, Percy	Illness – croup
Fielder,	Admitted in November having had very little schooling
Goacher, James	Withdrawn aged 14. (He had only made it to Std I)
Gratwicke, Frederick	Illness – sore throat. Reprimanded for damaging a post box in Dragon's Lane.
Hayler, Arthur	Illness – measles. Withdrawn for work aged 14
Hayler, John	Illness - measles then rheumatism
Hayward, Alfred	Absent without leave. Keen to join Army and falsified date of birth. He was only 13½ and 5ft 4 in tall. Said to be of weak

	intellect, but with excellent handwriting. Encouraged to persevere with lessons.
Knight, John	Illness – cold and sore throat. Relocated in September to Pulborough.
Laker, Charley	Withdrawn for work, aged 14
Lucas, William	Brought in some frog spawn
Merritt, Ernest	Withdrawn for work, aged 14
Pugh, James	Illness – cold
Radbourne, William	Pupil from Coolham School initially refused admission on account of measles at Coolham. Admitted 2 weeks later. Later returned to Coolham School.
Rapley, Dennis	Brought in specimen of Adder's Tongue for drawing. Reprimanded for damaging a post box in Dragon's Lane. Described as a delicate boy, had pains in chest and sickness in July, - discovered to have been through eating unripe fruit.
Rapley, Percy	Spectacles provided as result of eye tests
Rapley, Sidney	Illness – eating unripe fruit
Ratcliffe, Cyril	Admitted from Infant Class aged over 8
Ratcliffe, Harold	Withdrawn for work, aged 14
Roberts, Albert	Illness – influenza
Rowland, R	Illness – influenza. Failed to gain Labour Certificate in November
Russell, W	Brought in specimen of Adder's Tongue for drawing
Streeter, Albert	Illness – cold and sore throat, subsequently had tonsils removed. Gained Labour Certificate in May, left in September to start work.
Streeter, Percy	Spectacles provided as result of eye tests. Developed rash on hands in September.
Thompson, Percy	Withdrawn for work, aged 14
Turner, Wilfred	Admitted at nearly 14 – said to be very backward. Later donated items to School museum. Absent without leave in November.
Wallis, Alexander	Withdrawn as result of re-location of foster parents
Wells, William	Absent through death in family, then left district
Williams, Sidney	Illness – measles
Woolven, Frederick	Left district

Synopsis of 1909

Staff Mr William Bacon, Headmaster
Miss Edith Freeman, Assistant until 7 April 1909
Miss Emma Woolgar, Monitress in Girls' Dept. helped out for a few sessions per week with Lower Division following suggestion of HMI in July.

Average attendances

- Winter: 85.6% Roll: 36 – 38
- Summer: 95.9% Roll: 40
- Autumn: 90.1% Roll: 41 – 43

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – heavy rain, snow, frost, and coldness in school said to contribute to spread of illness, high floods in October and December.
- Illness – coughs and colds, croup, influenza, (attendance down to 17 during winter influenza epidemic), throat infections, accidents, operations, acute toothache.

Regular visitors to school

- SAO – Mr Brooks (who died suddenly in March). Mr Cripps, Deputy SAO, New permanent SAO from 9 July was Mr R Richardson.
- Vicar – Rev. Baker
- HMI – un-named
- Physical instructress – Miss Davies
- Medical Officer – Dr Child

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day were observed as a Sunday and registers were not marked.
- The Diocesan Examination was conducted on 14 May by Rev. Aubrey Pain of Lurgashall Rectory, Petworth. The verbatim report reads "The boys in both divisions answered very fairly [sic] well, and passed a good examination. The written work was well done." Signed Aubrey Pain and endorsed by the vicar. Certificates were presented on 25 June.

Subjects studied and games played

- **Object lessons:** A night-light, a piece of wood (explaining various constituent parts), animals compared, a daisy, clothing, paraffin, cuckoo pint, nests of a chaffinch, nightingale and willow wren, the hop plant, blackberry bramble, a carrot, a slug on cabbage leaves, a needle, oak marble galls, mistletoe.
- **Collective lessons:** Map of Sussex, health and ill health, health in the home, nouns and verbs used in oral composition, plan of the school, humble bees' hive, Map of the Parish, personal hygiene, breathing (lungs drawn on blackboard)
- **Drawing:** jug, flower pot, orange, scale drawing, catkins, primroses, periwinkle, daffodils, wild arum, oak apples, bluebells, cone, cylinder, a milk can a glass bottle, ivy plant, cube, square prism, vase, a pair of garden shears, wild vetch, clover, flowers, teapot, leaves and flowers of the hop, laurel leaves, a vase, blackberry leaves, the wild rose, a reading lamp, an orange tree of two years growth raised by Mr Bacon from a pip. Drawing objects from memory, coffee mill, mistletoe.
- **General Syllabus:** reading, geometry, grammar, history (mentions reading about the Battle of Waterloo on the anniversary of the battle in June), nature study, composition, oral composition,
- **Songs learned:** The Veteran's Song (Long Live the King)
- **Games:** physical instruction, drill

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- HMI visited in January and inspected administrative paperwork and exam work. He praised the quality of drawing. Visited again in November and made similar observations but criticised the state of the playground and offices (toilets).
- Termly examinations held at the end of each term. Examination of the whole year's work took place at the end of the winter term, as the new school year at this time started in April.
- The Labour Certificate Examination was held on 15 May and 13 November. Notices were pasted outside the school.
- Mr Witcombe, Inspector from Education Office in Horsham, visited in July. He noted the absence of a fire guard and gave instruction for one to be requisitioned immediately. He suggested that the Monitress from the Girls' School be shared with the Boys' School. She subsequently helped out with the Lower Division.

National events, celebrations and outings

- Choir outing was held on 28 July, and School was closed for the day.

Fabric of school building

- Chimneys swept, floors scrubbed and yards and offices cleaned during each vacation. (Offices refers to the outside toilets).
- Temperature inside at 9am recorded as 40°F (4°C) and 34°F (1°C) in January and December.
- Playground became 'quagmire' in wet weather. In dry weather it became very dusty.
- In October Mr Bacon helped the boys fill some of the puddles in the playground from material scraped from other parts of the playground.
- HMI condemned the playground and offices (toilets) in November. Mr Bacon explained that the heavy rain caused flooding in the girls' passage and lifted the cover to show the drains were intact. (Flooding in this area was regularly recorded in the Girls' Log Books). The Vicar was informed by request of the Inspector. The School managers met the following week to inspect the offices and dust pits.
- Following the playground and offices problem a surveyor visited and Mr Bacon made him a scale drawing of the premises showing where the drains lay. Shortly after this the cesspits were emptied and deodorised with lime.
- Workmen from the vicarage replaced some broken and missing roof tiles. They cleared stack pipes which had accumulated rubbish over several years, causing rainwater to run down the wall instead of into the drains.

Points of interest

- Each delivery of coal and faggots recorded and counted to ensure correct amount received. In September 6 tons was delivered, but the coal shed could only accommodate 5 tons, so the remainder was stored in the faggot shed, and *kept under lock and key*. (Heavily underlined in red!)
- Prize books and certificates delivered in February. Presentation was given in the Parish Room in March by Lady Burrell, accompanied by Sir Merrick Burrell.
- Several boys reported seeing a meteor on 22nd February at 7.30pm travelling south west. It left a blazing train in the sky for nearly an hour.
- Miss Freeman left in April to take up a more lucrative appointment at Pyecombe. This is the first mention of her name since she was appointed in June 1907; of her duties there is no record.
- Weighing machine received in April, and Shipley School to hold it for use by local schools – Ashington, Coolham and Dial Post.
- In April the children were asked to contribute money towards a surprise for Miss Penn, Headmistress of the Girls' School, to help with her expenses at Whitby where she had gone for her health. The boys raised 4/-.
- Lady Burrell visited in May with her nurse and three children and was entertained by the singing of songs. She brought a box of sweets for the children to share.

- Medical inspection was carried out on 20 May on children aged 6 years and 12 years. All children were weighed prior to the inspection, and details were entered on the 'Physique Register'.
- In June Mr Bacon noted that he was coping single handed and that behaviour in the Upper Division while he was teaching the Lower was becoming a problem. He was forced to make an example of strict discipline. (This seemed to go against his inclination. He had previously tried reasoning).
- An orphan, Dennis Corke, was boarded out with Mr and Mrs Francis of Hoes Cottage. He was soon moved on as the foster parents were unwilling to keep him any longer.
- Emma Woolgar, Monitress from Girls' School started helping out with Lower Division in July.
- A blacksmith, Mr Cripps, measured and quoted for a fireguard. Quote was sent to Education Office for approval. There is no record of having been approved or made.
- Two un-named Scottish boys admitted in October, said to be fine robust boys, but backward in learning. Their parents had taken over Butterstocks Farm.
- Fires were not lit in the autumn term until the end of October.
- Boys were cautioned by Mr Bacon for leaving school in the dinner hour to look for 'sleepers' –dormice.

Boys mentioned by name

Adams, Alfred	Illness – various including bad chilblains
Adams, Frederick	Withdrawn for work aged 14
Brown, Archie	Staying temporarily in Horsham
Brown, Archie	Absent while helping sick mother
Cooper, Alfred	Gained Labour Certificate and withdrawn for work
Cooper, W	Illness
Cooper, William	A delicate boy, left to attend Coolham School when his brother left at 14.
Corke, Dennis	New entrant – an orphan. Later left as foster parents refused to keep him.
Denman, George	Withdrawn for work at Knepp Kennels at age 14.
Denman, Percy	Referred for further advice as result of medical exam. Subsequently had tonsils removed.
Fielder, William	Absent without explanation. Described as an indulgent child.
Friday, John	New entrant – described as a cripple with legs in irons and use of left hand only. He wrote well with his left hand.
Gratwick, Frederick	Withdrawn at aged 14
Hayler, John	Brought in nature study specimens
Hayward, Alfred	Illness – influenza
Johnson, Henry	Fell in the brook while collecting a moorhen's nest. Cautioned against dangerous activities as he was a <i>very</i> small boy.
Laker, Baden	Dug up a humble bee's hive
Lower, Frederick	Absent without explanation. Normally regular attender.
Merritt, Albert	Illness
Merritt, Harold	Withdrawn for work aged 14.
Millham, Jesse	Found a chaffinch nest on the roadside
Pugh, James	Illness – cold then jaundice. Absent over a month.
Rapley, Dennis	Brought in nature study specimens

Rapley, Richard	Injured his eye while crawling through a thorn bush. Had operation to try and save his sight. He was absent 4 months, and his left eye was permanently injured. Follow up checks said to be satisfactory.
Ratcliffe, C	Illness – broken chilblains
Roberts, William	Crawled through a thorn bush with Richard Rapley
Rowland, Leonard	Assisted with carrying of weighing machine to Coolham. Absent for a week in December while working. Subsequently withdrawn although not yet 14.
Russell, Walter	Passed exam for work with LBSC Railway Company and was withdrawn in July.
Streeter, Percy	Illness – jaundice
Sturt, Albert	Illness – toothache
Sturt, Henry	Illness – injury to elbow
Turner, Wilfred	Carried weighing machine to Coolham on his bicycle for Mr Bacon. Withdrawn at over 15 years of age.
Williams, Sydney	Withdrawn at aged 14

Synopsis of 1910

Staff Mr William Bacon, Headmaster
Miss Emma Woolgar, part-time Monitress shared with Girls' School

Average attendances

- Winter: 86.2% Roll: 40 - 41
- Summer: 92.8% Roll: 40 – 44
- Autumn: 84.5% Roll: 39 – 43

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – heavy rain, snow, high floods in January resulted in more than half children being absent. Violent thunder storms occurred in June. High floods almost daily in December.
- Illness – influenza, coughs and colds, chickenpox, mumps epidemic in December, accidents, chilblains.
- Local events – beaters for the local shoot.

Regular visitors to school

- SAO – Mr R Richardson
- Vicar – Mr Baker
- Physical instructress – Miss Davies
- Medical Officer – Dr Child

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Half day holiday given for a confirmation by the bishop in the Parish Church in March.
- Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day observed as a Sunday
- Diocesan inspection was held on the morning of 27 May, and a half day holiday given after. The report recorded that “the children answered brightly and readily. There was evidence of careful and reverent teaching”.

Subjects studied and games played

- **Object lessons:** a pump, a pocket knife, an owl illustrated by a stuffed specimen from the museum case. Hazel catkins, the crocus, the snowdrop, a clock, a primrose, a lead pencil, a mariners compass, the pea plant, beetroot, sponge, chalk, fallen leaves, a piece of wood. In September visited Mr Stanford's hop oast to watch drying and packing. Boys supplied with paper and pencil to make notes.
- **Collective lessons:** oral composition, plan of the school, grammar and use of nouns, parts of speech, the geography of Sussex,
- **General Syllabus:** geometry, grammar, nature study, decimals, composition, arithmetic – addition and division, writing (addressing envelopes, describing HMS Victory from a picture on the wall), square measurement,
- **Drawing:** scale drawing commenced for Stds IV – VI in January. Included a 1/8th inch to the foot plan of the school. Freehand drawing of a pocket knife, a brush, a 'weather glass', an Austrian bent wood chair, coffee jug, scissors, bell, keys, shells, . Drawing from nature – hazel catkins, berberis leaves, snowdrops, daffodils, violets, crocus, primrose, bluebells, adders tongue, narcissus, tulip, buttercups, marguerites, nasturtiums, dandelions, Virginia creeper, dog rose, hips . How to draw straight lines and curves, an ellipse, a cone, a square prism, a cube,
- **Songs learned:** The Cuckoo, Christmas.
- **Games:** drill, military drill, physical exercises from new Syllabus Book 1909, Miss Davies visited in March without prior notice to watch drill and exercise and discussed the new syllabus.

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- Labour Certificate Examination held on 28 June in Horsham. Official notice posted outside school. Four boys passed, and were greeted by spontaneous applause when the announcement was made.
- Exams held at the end of each term.

National events, celebrations and outings

- School was closed on 20 May to mark the funeral and a national day of mourning for Edward VII. A memorial service was held in Shipley Church at 1 pm.
- Empire Day celebrations were cancelled out of respect for the late king. This included cancellation of the traditional half day holiday. Instead, singing of the national anthem and a brief address sufficed to mark the day.
- The Choir outing in July was to Osborne House in the Isle of Wight.
- A Harvest Home social was held in the school for parishioners in October.

Fabric of school building

- School thoroughly cleaned each vacation. Mrs Johnson mentioned for first time as cleaner in April.
- Playground a quagmire in wet weather. It was used for outdoor drill when dry or when hard with frost.
- Temperature inside 34°F (1°C) at 9 am on two mornings in January.
- Following a meeting of School Managers in January a builder, Mr Summersell, assessed structural alterations to offices. (Toilets)
- A door was fixed by the carpenter to the dust pit in the back passage, and the dust pit was emptied by Mr Peter Stepney.
- The Sanitary Inspector, Mr Wright, called to inspect the school, offices and drains.
- In wet weather the muddy playground was the cause of much dirt being brought in on boots.
- During torrential rain in June the girls' back yard and School House private back yard flooded as drains could not cope with the volume of water.
- A week after the floods the playground was so dusty that a layer of grit covered everything in the school.
- In July the School managers and County Surveyor met to discuss the playgrounds and drains.
- During the summer vacation the condemned cesspits were filled in and new WCs built for the boys in the NW corner of the playground. The old WCs were altered for use by the girls and infants. All WCs converted to the earth closet system. 12 galvanised buckets were provided, a shed was built at the back of the field and a man appointed to maintain the WCs and drains.
- New playground drains and gullies were installed and Tarmac was laid by Mr Wakeford. Supplies of Tarmac were delivered by steam traction engine, however wet weather caused the engine to sink into and cut up the newly levelled ground. The finishing layer was eventually completed, and the dust problem much improved.
- Outside drill was subsequently held with 'pleasure and additional interest'.
- Heavy rain in October caused a miniature pond to form between the raised tarmac path to the WCs and hedge. Mr Bacon and boy volunteers attempted to fill the holes in the playground with broken bricks and ash, but this continued to be a problem every time there was heavy rain.
- Apart from the portion of untreated playground, the tarmac was described as a 'grand improvement', with the classroom floors getting much less muddy.

Points of interest

- School closed on Polling Day for General Election in January. Mr Bacon acted as Poll Clerk.
- Registers were not marked on days when floods or other circumstances prevented many children from attending. Teaching continued for those who had managed the journey.
- The Vicar brought a letter from the chaplain of HMS Invincible respecting the death of John Gratwicke, a former pupil who was accidentally drowned on 3 February at Bantry Bay. The letter described his excellent

character and funeral with naval honours at Bantry Bay, and was read to the boys. (There is a plaque commemorating John Gratwicke on the north wall of the Church.)

- Mr Bacon dissatisfied with ink stand sent from Educational Supplies, and reported several errors on the order.
- Prize books were received in February.
- Mr Bacon re-hung a broken cupboard door which had been repaired by the Vicarage carpenter.
- The father of William Fielder confronted Mr Bacon about the medical certificate required for part time attendance. Mr Bacon refused to deal with his anger. A letter from Dr Gravely was later presented but was not considered a medical certificate.
- Prize books were given out at the end of the winter term without any ceremony.
- A snowstorm in March made the rooms very dark during the afternoon.
- Medical examinations for children aged 9 were held on 6 June. All boys were weighed, measured and had sight tests prior to visit. One boy fainted after the examination on account of the sultry weather.
- New registers were started at the beginning of each school year. In 1910 it was 6 May.
- A special hymn was sung at assembly in May for the recently deceased King Edward VII.
- Children were cautioned by the vicar against leaving open the Vicarage meadow gates as cattle had strayed onto the road.
- Boys very fidgety in June due to heat and dust. Temperature of 72° (22°C) recorded
- Education Office transferred to Thurloe House, Worthing.
- One boy broke a form while playing a prank and made a new one 'very nicely' His father was a carpenter.
- Boys cautioned in October for leaving playground without permission and damaging hedges.
- An airship was seen over Knepp grounds during the week of 28th October. The boys watched it until it disappeared beyond Butterstocks Farm. The propellers glittered in the sun and occupants could clearly be seen.
- In November indoor temperature recorded as 43°F (6°C)
- Coal and faggots were delivered in November, but the coal was so wet that water drained from it in the scuttle.
- The wet weather made the boys boots so hard when they dried out that they were unable to walk in them in the mornings.

Children mentioned by name

Booker, N	Could not tell the time
Booker, Stanley	Withdrawn for work aged 14.
Burchell, Harold	Illness – cold and chilblains
Compton, Roy	Illness – cold
Denman, Percy	Illness – cold. Badly affected by piercing winds. Absent while acting as beater for shoot.
Fielder, William	Absent for a month in February – returned half time. SAO told him to produce a medical certificate to authorise this. See Points of interest.
Friday, John	Absent due to repair to surgical boot
Hayler, Harold	Illness – rheumatism
Hayler, J	Passed Labour Certificate exam and withdrawn for farm work.
Laker, Baden	Illness – chickenpox. Fainted after medical examination.
Lower, Frederick	Accident – fell in playground and cut head
Lucas, W	Passed Labour Certificate exam and withdrawn for farm work.

Martin, David	Illness – sickness after each meal. Prescribed medicine.
Meachen, Robert	Irregular attender, left district 3 months after admission.
Merritt, Albert	Absent – mumps contact
Merritt, Charlie	Absent – mumps contact
Millham, Jesse	Passed Labour Certificate exam and withdrawn for farm work.
Norris, John	Accident – fractured collar bone in playground
Penfold, Henry	A poor little ill fed boy was taken ill at school.
Pugh, James	Illness
Rapley, Dennis	Illness – pneumonia. Sent to Brighton to recover by medical order. Cut his knee while jumping over tar barrels and needed stitching.
Rapley, John	Could not tell the time
Rapley, Richard	Continued to suffer from injury to his eye sustained in 1909, causing frequent absences.
Rapley, Sidney	Absent while acting as a beater for shoot. Withdrawn aged 14.
Ratcliffe, Cyril	Absent due to falling on his head from a hay rick
Roberts, Albert	Illness – sickness and headache
Roberts, William	Illness - cold
Searle, Leslie	New admission from Coolham School
Stickles, Charles	Broke a form during a prank and made a new one.
Stickles, Edward	Illness
Streeter, Percy	Illness – cold. Passed Labour Certificate exam and withdrawn for farm work.
Sturt, Henry	Withdrawn at aged 14

Synopsis of 1911

Staff Mr William Bacon, Headmaster
Miss Lilian Mitchell, Supplementary Teacher from 15 September 1911.

Average attendances

- Winter: 84.7% Roll: 36
- Summer: 95% Roll: 44
- Autumn: 90.8% Roll: 43 - 46

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – snow blizzards, cold winds, rain, high floods. In December school closed early as a man with a horse and cart was waiting to take the children through a flood at Ashbrooks. Only 16 attended on that day.
- Illness – mumps, colds, sickness, diarrhoea, fainting, sore feet from poor footwear, chickenpox. One boy absent through being a contact of scarlet fever, but no cases were reported.
- Local events – Agricultural Show in Horsham on 14 July (holiday given). Unauthorised farm work.
- Late arrivals – any boy arriving after close of registers was recorded absent even though present.

Regular visitors to school

- Vicar – Rev. Baker
- SAO – Mr Richardson
- HMI -Mr S Gill, Mr F Witcombe, Mr J.B. Russell
- Sanitary Inspector – Mr W.H. Wright
- Medical Officer – Dr Stanley Child
- Physical Instructress - Miss Davies

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Ash Wednesday ‘observed as usual’ i.e., children met at school at 9.45am and went together to church at 11am after which there was a half day holiday. Registers were not marked.
- Diocesan inspection was held on 26 May by Rev. R.B. Jameson of Brighton assisted by Rev. Jackson, Rector of Ashurst. The report showed the children had been well taught with New and Old Testament subjects well known. Recitation needed to be more expressive, and cards of simple prayers were suggested. Mr Bacon was praised for his work with children of such varying ages.
- Class registers were not marked on Ascension Day – presumably same routine as Ash Wednesday.

Subjects studied and games played

- **Object lessons:** an orange, a key, snowdrop, primrose, a pocket knife, marguerites, a glass of water, an orange contrasted with an apple, the acorn, liquids and solids.
- **Collective lessons:** The Earth and the Sun, the Cardinal Points and use of maps, the Census, the daffodil, plan of the school, The Knights of King Arthur’s Round Table, the Coronation, the County of Sussex, a river, a postage stamp, Map of the Parish.
- **General Syllabus:** a copy of ‘Manual Instruction in Public Elementary Schools’ issued by the Board of Education was received in January. Geography – latitude and longitude illustrated with coloured chalk on a football. New British Isles and Empire maps were received in July. Mathematics - geometry, arithmetic, the metric system, drawing angles with a set square. Composition, reading, writing, history, nature study. After the new teacher arrived in September Mr Bacon was able to give more lessons on composition rather than boys having to write in copy books.
- **Drawing:** a common brick, chalk drawing of a cone, cube and cylinder, crayon drawing on tinted paper, a school chair, a vase, a coffee mill, a milk can, a tea pot, maps of the Parish, a straw hat, an enamelled bowl with handle, a large book in various positions, an open umbrella, a galvanised pail. Nature drawing – catkins,

daffodils, a hyacinth, primroses, bluebells, buttercups, wild marguerites, Adders' Tongue, a carrot, acorns, scarlet hips, blackberry leaves, tinted oak leaves, bulrushes, ivy leaves modelled in plasticine. At the end of term in December Mr Bacon drew a Christmas card which the boys found a novelty.

- **Songs learned:** The Farmer's Boy, Little Soldiers of the King.
- **Games:** outdoor drill in fine weather, cricket. Occasional exercises given by Miss Davies, visiting physical instructress.

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- Official notice of the 'Minor Scholarship Examination' to be held in May was received on 24 March
- End of year examinations were held in March, and end of term examinations were held each July and December.
- Mr Gill, HMI conducted an inspection on 7 April. He made the usual inspection of registers and official records, and noted that in future the cause of a child leaving and nature of work entered into should be recorded in the Admissions register. He made suggestions regarding the syllabus, tested the boys in reading, writing, arithmetic and singing and witnessed drill. He commended the drawing and was pleased with the improvements to the playground and WCs. He suggested the room temperature should be taken each morning.
- Notice of Labour Certificate Examination received on 28 April. There were no candidates. The next examination was on 11 November, and again there were no candidates.
- Notice of Exhibition of School Work on 12 and 13 July was received on 5 May. Maps of the Parish drawn to the scale of 1½ inches to the mile were submitted. Also sent were examples of drawings from nature, writing and letter writing.
- Another inspector, Mr Russell, visited on 18 May. He examined Stds IV – VII, made comments about reading books and composition and advised on procurement of new maps.
- Mr Russell visited again on 28 July, heard the Lower Division read, observed the work of the Upper Division and discussed the question of a supplementary teacher to help Mr Bacon. His report noted that desks were inadequate, insufficient cupboard space, suitable geography and history books were required, the cloakrooms and WCs needed improvement and the rooms were inadequately heated.
- Mr Gill visited in December and carried out the usual examination of records and then gave a lesson in reading and how to take notes.

National events, celebrations and outings

- A week's holiday was given to celebrate the coronation of King George V on 22 June.
- A half day holiday was give on 21 July for the school treat at Knepp given by Sir Merrick and Lady Burrell.
- Choir outing was to the Crystal Palace on 22 July.
- A day's holiday was given in October to allow the school to be cleaned ready for the Harvest Festival Social Gathering of parishioners the following day. It is not recorded whether the children attended.

Fabric of school building

- During the Christmas vacation the pumps were repaired and broken windows replaced. School thoroughly cleaned each vacation.
- Driving rains from the SE, S or SW entered the boys' urinals over the door and flooded the concrete floors which were lower than the sills.
- When the drain to the urinal blocked Mr Bacon cleared it by baling out the water with a tin mug, cut out an iron grating with a cold chisel and a boy removed compacted sediment from the trap. The drain was then flushed with six buckets of water and finished by a bucket mixed with Jeyes Fluid.
- Mr Witcombe, Inspector and Mr Calvert, School Manager visited in May and made lengthy inspection of the buildings, yards and WCs.

- Inspection of 28 July showed improvements needed to cloakrooms and WCs and highlighted the inadequacy of heating in boys' and girls' rooms, with just an old fashioned fire place in the boys' room. He advised keeping a daily record of temperatures.
- Problems with the buildings, drains and hedge were pointed out to a School Manager in November.
- A scavenger's tool for cleaning out gully traps was delivered by the Vicar. The man who cleaned the WCs pronounced it unusable, but Mr Bacon emptied three of the gullies with it.
- A tarred, locked door used by the man who cleaned out the WCs had been causing problems with changes in the weather and was found wrenched off in November. It transpired the man had left it open and the wind had slammed it.
- In November indoor temperature did not rise above 50°F (10°C). One morning it was 40°F (4°C)

Points of interest

- One boy, John Rapley, having crushed his finger in the playground, fainted while having it dressed by Mr Bacon. Mr Bacon had to abandon his object lesson in order to deal with the boy.
- The weighing machine was sent to Dial Post School and duly received back two weeks later.
- Half yearly stationery supplies from Educational Supplies Association delivered by carrier. The July order was damaged by a bottle of Jeyes Fluid breaking in transit.
- Deliveries of coal and faggots always recorded. Frequently mentioned that faggots were small. In December the coal ran out and Mr Bacon loaned the school four scuttles full until new deliveries were received.
- Notice of the 1911 census was received from the Board of Education on 10 March.
- In March the Vicar discussed with Mr Bacon the question of the 'King's gift from the Georges and Marys'. There is no record of what this may have been.
- A pair of steps for use in the schools delivered in January was taken away in March as they had been wrongly consigned to Shipley. Mr Bacon recorded that 'the woman uses them to clean windows'. (The cleaning lady was not named, nor has she been elsewhere to date).
- The annual Prize books were delivered by carrier on 15 March. They were presented to boys who made 97% attendance during the year to December 1910.
- Mr Bacon appears critical of reading skills of children admitted from Infant department. 'All read on one note pointing with their fingers to each word'.
- Medical inspections for boys aged 13 and eye sight tests for all present were made in May. Prior to this all boys were weighed and measured. Several boys were named as biggest, smallest, tallest etc, and comparisons made with the previous inspection.
- The 'great heat' in June of 68°F (20°C) made the boys lazy and caused powdered ink to turn to a jelly like consistency. In July drill was abandoned as children were 'languishing 'in a temperature of 78°F (25.5°C). Lesson appeared 'irksome' in temperatures of 80°F (26.6°C).
- Coronation mugs were distributed in September. They showed portraits of the King and Queen on one side and 'Shipley Sussex coronation Celebration 1911' on the other. Each child on the registers in June received one. Perhaps this was the gift referred to in March.
- Mr Bacon writes movingly of the poor boy, Thomas Rice. He often arrived without food, and Mr Bacon gave him meals. His family was evicted from their cottage 'neck and crop' and he was removed from the school register. His family were of the 'illiterate, almost destitute itinerant class'.
- SAO chased up a family who had moved into Drummers Farm whose children were running wild. One eventually was admitted (name not given).
- Three boys left the playground to gather acorns during the lunch break and forgot the time. They were denied an attendance mark for the afternoon.
- Nature study classes for teachers commenced in October in Horsham. Miss Mitchell was scheduled to attend on Saturday mornings.
- Mr Bacon treated one child who fainted and another who was sick over two days in November.

- Boys had been found leaving the playground and cutting sticks from the hedgerow to make weapons for playing soldiers and robbers. Complaints had been made about little boys being hurt, but the practice continued despite repeated cautions. Two boys were chastised (how is not noted).
- Boys reprimanded for standing on WC seats and making them dirty.
- Boys missed the monthly half day holiday in November through being 0.2% short of the required 90% attendance.
- Shoe Club money was paid out with bonuses on 21 December.

Children mention by name

Adams, Albert	Illness – mumps. Sore feet from wearing boots that had hardened through wading through floods
Adams, Alfred	Illness – mumps. Withdrawn for farm work aged 14
Booker, Walter	Broke a window with a marble. Made to report it to the Vicar.
Brown, Charles	Admitted from Infant department aged 6 years 11 months.
Burchell, Harold	Withdrawn for work aged 14. Said to have consumption of the bowel.
Chislett, Frederick	Sick in school soon after arrival one morning in November
Compton, Roy	Illness – mumps. Withdrawn when parents left district in September
Daughtry, William	A foster child. Absent in November due to scarlet fever in his house.
Denman, Percy	Withdrawn aged 14
Fielder, William	Absent on holiday
Friday, John	Absent since last September, removed from register
Hayler, Herbert	Admitted from Infant department aged 8 years and 3 months.
Lower, Frederick	Illness – mumps. Withdrawn for work aged 14 in November
Martin, David	Illness – diarrhoea
Martin, Hunter	Illness – diarrhoea
Muggeridge, Walter A	Transfer from Coolham School. Only up to Std III at age 11.
Norris, John	Illness – mumps
Rapley, Dennis	Recorded as delicate, only gaining 2½ pounds in a year.
Rapley, John	Accident – trapped finger in door
Ratcliffe, Cyril	Illness – cold and chilblains
Rice, Thomas	From a poor, almost destitute, illiterate family of the itinerant class. Unable to read or write at age 8. Soon withdrawn when family evicted.
Roberts, Albert	Transferred to St Mary's School West Grinstead for RC religious instruction
Roberts, William	Transferred to St Mary's School West Grinstead for RC religious instruction
Robinson, John	Illness - cold
Rowland, Raymond	New admission. Over 8 years old and unable to read
Searle, Leslie	Had a fainting attack and sickness at school (three times). Frequently absent
Stickles, Charles	Biggest boy in school having gained 14½ pounds since last April. Withdrawn for work aged 14 in November. He had made great progress and was an exemplary student.
Tilley, Albert	Illness – mumps. Withdrawn for work on 12 April having reached 14
Tourle, Arthur	Smallest boy in the school

Synopsis of 1912

Staff Mr William Bacon, Headmaster
Miss Lilian Mitchell, Supplementary Teacher

Average attendances

- Winter: 91.2% Roll: 41
- Summer: 92.0% Roll: 45
- Autumn: 92.0% Roll: 47

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – heavy rain, thunder storms, hail, snow, high floods.
- Illness – accidents, chilblains, operations, whooping cough, colds, chickenpox, measles.
- Local events – helping with harvest, helping parents move house.

Regular visitors to school

- Vicar – Rev. Baker
- SAO – Mr Richardson
- HMI – Mr F Witcombe, Mr J.B. Russell
- Medical Officer – Dr Bushnell
- The Misses Hopton visited occasionally, their relationship with the school not recorded.

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Ash Wednesday and Ascension days observed as usual – i.e. meeting at school and walking together to the Church for a service at 11am followed by a half day holiday.
- The Diocesan Inspection was carried out on the morning of 31 May by the Rev. Jameson. Registers were not marked and the afternoon was given as a holiday. The report commended the careful training and practical approach given by Mr Bacon, but was mildly critical of some who should be encouraged to take part more readily and of the lack of expression in the repetition. The Upper class had learned their bible lessons well and memorised the catechism. The Lower Class was not felt to be up to average on knowledge of the first principles of Christian faith and duty, and indicated that improvement could be made with a better explanation of the subjects using the scripture narratives as illustrations 'as contemplated in the syllabus'.

Subjects studied and games played

General syllabus: - *Arithmetic* – started using Pitman's Correlated Tests and Promotion Tests. Mental arithmetic, Mensuration – calculation of area of square, oblong, triangle, circle. *Composition* – the walk to school, the daffodil, a country walk in spring, Country Sights and Sounds in Spring. *Reading* – new reading books commenced in October – Story of General Gordon and Nelsons Royal Prince Readers. *Nature study* – a schedule of work submitted to HMI who recommended alternative text books - Dent's Elementary Botany or Nesbit's Nature Study. An hour's walk was taken in June in connection with the 'Nature Study Scheme'.

Object lessons: - a primrose.

Drawing: - Scale drawing, brushwork, plasticine model making. *Nature drawing* – crocus, periwinkle, daffodils.

Songs learned: - Fair Morn is Up.

Games: - Outdoor drill in good weather, marching, physical exercises from the official syllabus.

HM Inspector and academic achievement

This year the record of teaching has changed. Collective lessons are not mentioned and object lessons and drawing are much reduced. Is this because Mr Bacon has an assistant and does not need to give lessons to the entire age range or has a new curriculum directive has been issued from the Education Office?

- Examinations took place at the end of each term.

- Notices of the Labour Certificate Examinations to be held on 18 May and 16 November were posted outside the school. One boy passed in May. There were no candidates in November.
- A scheme of Nature Study work was submitted to HMI in April.
- Mr Russell visited in November to observe work in progress. Inspections this year seem to have concentrated more on the school facilities than on the education of the children.

National events, celebrations and outings

- The Sunday School treat took place in May at the Parish Room
- Empire Day on 24 May was marked by singing the National Anthem in the morning and afternoon
- A half day holiday was given in July for the school treat at Knepp Castle.
- Choir outing was to the Isle of Wight at the end of July.

Fabric of school building

- School was thoroughly cleaned during each vacation
- Coal deliveries recorded carefully and discrepancies noted. In May the coal merchant, Mr Grinstead, claimed to have delivered one cwt more than received. Mr Bacon refused to sign the invoice and the dispute was referred to the Education Office.
- Tarmac section of playground praised, but the remainder was muddy and caused much splattering to staff and children.
- Temperature in school in February lower than for many years 33.5°F (8°C), then 30°F (1°C) when the water in the weather glass froze solid. An Inspector, Mr Witcombe visited in March and asked for a daily record of temperatures at 9am since February. In November temperature at 9am was 39°F (4°C) rising to 51°F (10.5°C) during the day. Inspectors regularly asked for the chart on each visit.
- When classroom temperature reached 50°F (10°C) work was done with doors and windows open!
- A school manager, Mr Calvert, noted improvements required to ventilation of cloakroom, the dust pit, boys WCs, broken fences. These were remedied during the summer vacation.
- Mr Baker, a builder, visited in June to assess repairs. Painting of outside began in July. Repairs were carried out during the summer holidays to the boys' cloakroom where a skylight was installed. The dust pit and coal cellar doorway were removed to make space for the girls' new cloakroom. Bins with lids and scoops for use in the WCs were provided, but the dust (presumably for throwing into the earth closets) failed to arrive. The school rooms and cloakrooms were whitewashed. The earth was eventually provided for the bins in October.
- 18 new dual desks were received in September from the Educational Supplies factory at Stevenage. Mr Bacon unpacked them and carried them into school on a Saturday ready for the next Monday. They had brass sliding ink well covers to prevent dust getting into the ink, and 12 were locker desks which saved a great deal of time in getting ready for lessons.
- HMI visited on 20 September, his main reason being to inspect alterations. He was pleased with the result, and satisfied that at last new desks of appropriate size had been provided. He asked for the twice daily temperature record and asked if there were plans for improved heating for the winter. Charts were produced but there was no news about extra heating.
- On 27 September HMI wrote asking what the managers proposed to do about the heating. Mr Calvert, a school manager, said an enclosed stove to stand out in the room had been ordered. Measurements were taken by Mr J.D. Smith, Engineer, of Brighton for the heating stove in October.
- Mr Bacon re-spaced the hat pegs in the cloakroom two inches further apart and numbered them in his spare time.
- Two further managers' meetings were held in October and more in November to discuss the heating question, and a new heating system was installed in January. (But too late for beginning of term).
- Mr Cripps, blacksmith, mended a broken hook for the curtain rod, damaged during the whitewashing. Mr Bacon re-attached the hook to the wall.
- The Misses Hopton visited in November to see the new desks and improvements.

- In December the pump in the boys cloakroom broke and the worn out leather sucker was sent to Mr Sturt at Buck Barn Cottage for repair. Mr Bacon refitted the repaired sucker. He also noted the pump in his house had been similarly defective for six months, but did not record whether he was given permission to have it repaired.

Points of interest

- Miss Lilian Mitchell was officially appointed as a Supplementary teacher on 12 January. In March she took the 'Oxford Senior Local Exam' at Lewes. She failed this exam and took another at Horsham in July. There is no record of her result.
- List of boys who had attained 97% attendance in year to December 1911 was submitted to Vicar, and prizes were presented in March.
- The School clock was sent to Horsham for repair to the cat gut line which had worn out.
- Mr Bacon visited Willie Fielder at home to take him books and crayons to amuse and occupy him as he awaited operation at Brighton Hospital on 22 March for a nasal growth. He had been absent since November, and returned to school on 26 April, the operation having been beneficial. He was ill again by mid-May.
- Leslie Searle fainted while at the Ash Wednesday service in Church and took longer than usual to revive, causing much excitement. Miss Hopton drove him home.
- On 21 April there was an eclipse of the sun and boys were allowed an extension of play to witness it. Mr Bacon prepared smoked glass slides and also used a bucket of water to watch the reflection. Lady Burrell, with a party of 'ladies and gentlemen' happened to be passing on horseback and asked to borrow some pieces of smoked glass.
- Medical inspection for boys aged 13 was held on 13 May. Prior to this all boys were weighed and measured. A letter was sent to the parents of James Pugh and Leslie Searle. Dr Child visited unannounced in October asking to see the two boys, but Leslie Searle was absent.
- The National Insurance Act 1911 necessitated completion of forms for Miss Penn, Miss Folly and Miss Mitchell.
- School finished at 3pm on 26 July to allow Mr Bacon and choir members to attend the funeral of Mr and Mrs Henry Summersell who died suddenly within minutes of each other of syncope. (fainting)
- Shoe Club money with bonus of upwards of £20 was distributed before the Christmas holidays.
- Mr Bacon cleared the classroom after school broke up for a ball to be held on 3 January.

Children mentioned by name

Adams, Albert	Illness – cold, the rheumatism of feet
Arnold, Francis	Withdrawn as parents left district
Brown, Albert	New admission from Coolham
Brown, Archibald	Passed Labour Certificate Examination on 18 May
Brown, Charles	Accident – cut heel on glass
Burchell, Reginald	Withdrawn for work aged 14
Burnham, Thomas Ernest	New admission, 9 years old and very backward
Chislett, Frederick	Accident – injury to back and knee
Daughtrey, William	Absent without explanation. Later removed from foster parents to live at the Horsham Union House.
Fielder, Willie	Illness – awaiting operation at Brighton Hospital to his nose
Francis, William	Admitted for a few weeks from Hendon. Withdrawn after 2 months.
Gratwicke, Harry	New admission from Coolham

Holmes, Reginald	New admission from Gloucester. His mother was housekeeper at the Vicarage
Hudson, Geoffrey	Temporary pupil from Tynemouth
Martin, David	Absent every afternoon for a week in June. A farmer's son.
Martin, Hunter	Illness
Merritt, Alfred	Illness – measles
Muggeridge, Wallace	Illness – whooping cough
Pugh, James	Absent – on holiday in Wales with his father then ill with whooping cough. Report after school medical inspection sent to parents. Fainted in November, suffers from toothache. Frequently absent.
Rapley, Dennis	Withdrawn aged 14
Ratcliffe, Cyril	Illness – chilblains, then a cold
Roberts, Arthur	Illness – cold
Robinson, John	Illness – cold
Rowland, Edwin	Withdrawn for farm work aged 14
Rowland, Arthur	Helping with harvest
Rowland, George	Helping with harvest
Rowland, Raymond	Illness – cough
Searle, Leslie	Fainting attack while at school (frequently happened previous year), again in church on Ash Wednesday. Report after school medical inspection sent to parents. Regularly recorded as absent through illness.
Stark, Frederick	Illness – chilblains, seven teeth extracted,
Sturt, Albert	Withdrawn for work in Knepp Castle Gardens aged 14
Tourle, Arthur	Moved from district
Whymark, John	Temporary pupil from July to September when parents left district

Synopsis of 1913

Staff Mr William Bacon, Headmaster
Miss Lilian Mitchell, Assistant Teacher

Average attendances

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|---------|
| • Winter: | 91.8% | Roll: | 49 - 52 |
| • Summer: | 91.4% | Roll: | 50 - 57 |
| • Autumn: | 82% | Roll: | 45 - 49 |

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – rain and floods, (23 absent in wet weather in April), St Swithin's Day in July so wet that more than half absent and registers were not marked. Heavy thunderstorms in October,
- Illness –coughs and colds, injuries, ringworm, measles, impetigo. Full scale measles epidemic in December resulted in closure of school for 5 weeks.
- Local events – hare hunt, Point to Point at Coolham in April (30 absent), Wesleyan Sunday School outing, Southwater Flower Show, harvesting, hop picking, potato picking, attending a hunt, pheasant shooting.
- Lateness – late arrivals not marked even if present. Persistent lateness was one of the inspector's criticisms in January. Mr Bacon noted in December that some had to walk two or three miles on wet dark mornings.

Regular visitors to school

- Vicar – Rev. Baker
- SAO – Mr Richardson
- HMI –Mr S Gill, Mr Whitcomb
- Medical Officer – Dr Stanley Child
- Miss Hopton (her relationship to school unspecified)

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Ash Wednesday and Ascension day were marked by meeting at school before walking to Church for a service after which a half day holiday was given.
- Diocesan inspection was held on 2 June by the Rev. Jameson. Mr Bacon was absent through illness but had left everything ready. The report commended the written work, interest shown, and good responses to questions, but the repetition was criticised for lack of expression and loudness of tone.

Subjects studied and games played

- **General syllabus:** *Nature study* – exercise books were provided for the first time to begin keeping a record of nature notes. A nature walk to the hop garden to collect honeysuckle was taken in July. Falling leaves, ivy, horse chestnut twig were discussed and drawn. *Reading* – Set of readers 'Erling the Bold' procured for Upper Division. *Arithmetic* – 'McDougall's Suggestive Arithmetic' on the metric system was introduced, weights and scales procured for practical work. Measurement of church and churchyard provided practice of mensuration. Mr Witcombe, Inspector recommended use of 'Practical Everyday Arithmetic' and a set of books received ready for the autumn term. By October progress was being made. *Geography* – the 'tragic' account of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole was read to the boys in February. In October a new set of readers was commenced – 'Book V - Europe – Lands and their Stories'.
- **Drawing:** *Scale drawing* – the front door, plan of the church done to 1/8 inch to the yard. Calculated area of church to be 450 sq. yds. *Object drawing* – cup and saucer.
- The criticisms of HMI of the methods and standards of teaching in January appear to have resulted in a complete change in the syllabus. Object and Collective lessons and importance of object drawing have given way to more emphasis on the 'three Rs' and formal nature study, although this may be more related to Mr Bacon's method of recording the daily routine.

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- Mr S Gill paid particular attention the 'three R' of all Standards during his January visit. A week later Mr Bacon received new time table forms, and subsequently compiled several drafts before receiving approval in March.
- The inspector's report was very critical. The boys showed lack of intelligence compared to children in similar schools and needed to have their interest sharpened by more imaginative teaching. Reading was done in a monotonous drawl, observation and ability to recall what they had read was weak. Language was childish and use of grammar poor. Arithmetic should be more than doing sums. Discipline was not firm, and on the day of the visit school did not start punctually. The Inspector recommended a broader and more intelligent approach to teaching and conceded that Mr Bacon should have a qualified assistant teacher to help him.
- A trial of the new timetable was started in April. A glazed frame was provided by the ES Assoc.
- The Labour Certificate examination was held on 31 May in Horsham. Four candidates attended, and three passed.
- Progress was being made in writing and arithmetic in July.
- Labour Certificate Examination held in Horsham on 8 November.

National events, celebrations and outings

- 12 boys absent on 20 June for the Wesleyan Sunday School outing to Worthing.
- A half day holiday given in July for a jumble sale at Knepp Castle in aid of school funds.
- The Choir Outing to Eastbourne was held on 21 July and day's holiday given.

Fabric of school building

- Hot water pipe system of heating was installed in January, but was not completed by the beginning of term, despite work being continued on a Sunday.
- Floors had failed to dry after being washed the day before school re-opened. Boys and Mr Bacon were obliged to clear away the building rubble left by the builders. The boys broke up the rubble with hammers and used it to fill muddy holes in the playground.
- Old fire grates were removed and stored in the shed by Mr Bacon and boys.
- The coal cellar was empty by 24 January.
- When the heating failed the Vicar refilled the system with water, and Mr Bacon made a float to indicate more clearly the water line. (This indicates initial problems with the new system and a lack of knowledge of how to deal with it).
- The house pump was replaced in April, but was no improvement as it failed to hold water. Further remedial work involved cutting out the lead pipe below the floor and sending it to Horsham for repair, but the results were unsuccessful. It appeared that the well was beneath the floor of the boys' school so the floor was taken up to make the connections and infants had to work in Mr Bacon's room.
- A ladder was made to order by Mr J Reeves to allow access to the new water tanks supplying the heating system.
- The school was thoroughly cleaned each vacation.
- Leaking roof noted in October. Repairs commenced end November.
- Fires commenced on 7 November when temperature fell to 46°F (8°C).
- Playground door leading to 'offices' (cess pit?) had rotted and fallen off hinges. Mr Bacon carried out temporary repairs.

Points of interest

- A policeman visited in January following a complaint by Mr Greenfield of Church Farm about damage boys were causing by cutting sticks and breaking down fences. A general caution was given.
- Prize books and the first watch to be earned were requisitioned in January.

- One boy off sick with a sore throat, Frederick Pronger, was described as small and having bad boots for wearing in the wet winter weather.
- Several boys punished for unauthorised leaving of playground for a paper chase.
- Mr Bacon must have been disappointed with the report of the inspector. He had taught a class of 40 – 50 children ranging in age from 7 to 14 without help until the previous 18 months. As well as teaching he acted as manager, first aid administrator, handyman and social worker. In addition, he worked in a school which was poorly equipped and where coal frequently ran out before the next delivery, leaving him and his pupils to endure temperatures which even by the standards of the time must have been unacceptable. By his observations we know he had an understanding of the difficulties faced by some of his pupils, and in one case he had held back on punishment of misdemeanours knowing that the child had nearly died the previous year. Some boys were poorly fed and clothed, some came from illiterate families and Mr Bacon showed understanding in dealing with these situations. He comes across as a compassionate man who did not rule by the rod, but appealed to his charges better natures by ‘cautioning’ them against certain activities. He appeared reluctant to withhold attendance marks from children who had walked 2 to 3 miles in wet weather to get to school, and was duly criticised for running an unpunctual school. The inspector conceded that the children probably had no intellectual stimulation outside school, but this must have been of little comfort to Mr Bacon.
- Boys were weighed and measured in April in preparation for the medical officer’s visit on 16 April. Dr Child found two boys to be ‘defective’ and their mothers were notified.
- 24 copies of ‘The Story of Gordon’ were sent by direction of the Education Office to Washington School. Arthur Brown took them on his bicycle one evening after school.
- Mr Bacon was absent through illness from 14 May to 16 June. A supply head took charge in his absence.
- The local policemen visited in July to report a complaint by a resident about boys entering a garden, throwing stones and causing damage. Mr Bacon gave a general caution and detained three boys for an hour after school. The names are recorded as Knight, Barnham and Daughtrey.
- Miss Mitchell took the Oxford Local Examination at Horsham in July. It is not recorded whether she obtained her qualification.
- School was closed for a day In October to allow staff to attend the West Sussex Teachers conference in Arundel.
- School closed early in December due to an epidemic of measles. Shoe Club money with bonuses handed out before closure.

Children mentioned by name

Adams, Albert	Notoriously defiant and disobedient. Withdrawn for farm work at age 14.
Barnham,	Cautioned for damage to local property
Bean, George	Illness – impetigo, head lice
Bean, John	Illness - sore feet injured while bathing, Impetigo, head lice
Booker, Walter	His prize book had 12 pages missing. It was returned to E.S. Assoc. he was found to be ‘defective’ at his medical examination in April. .Follow up medical in October. Withdrawn at age 14 in November.
Brown, Arthur	Failed Labour Examination Certificate. Withdrawn for work aged 14 as doctor’s boy at Worthing in December.
Burchell, Frederick	Absent without explanation
Burnham, E	Caught playing truant by SAO (bird nesting). Cautioned for lateness on another occasion.
Chislett, Frederic	Illness – knee joint injury – 17 weeks absence. Later transferred to a school nearer home.

Daughtrey, William	Re-admitted. Cautioned for damage to local property
Fielder, William	Illness- cough and cold
Gratwicke, H	Illness
Hayler, Harold	Gained Labour Certificate and left school in June
Henton, William	Accident – badly cut leg during holidays. Gained Labour Certificate in November and started work at the mill in December.
Izard, Charles	New admission – later withdrawn as parent left district
Izard, Reginald	New admission – later withdrawn as parent left district
Johnson, John	Illness - ringworm. Measles contact.
King, Frank	Recipient of the prize watch given for five years attendance. Week later absent for first time to visit hare hunt!
Knight, Victor	New admission Cautioned for damage to local property. Gained labour Certificate in November. Left school at end of December term.
Laker, Baden	Gained Labour Certificate and left school in June
Merritt, Alfred	Illness- measles contact
Muggeridge, Wallace	Found to be 'defective' at medical examination in April. Follow up medical in October.
Pronger, Ernest	Withdrawn when parents left district.
Pronger, Frederick	Illness – sore throat. Poorly shod in wet weather. Withdrawn when parents left district
Pullen, Albert	New admission end July, withdrawn in October.
Pullen, Jesse	New admission end July, withdrawn in October.
Rapley, Edward	Illness – rheumatic pains. Lived at Crookhorn and had a long walk to school
Rapley, John	Gained Labour Certificate and left school in June
Rapley, Percy	Lived at Crookhorn and had a long walk to school. Absent 3 weeks with sores.
Rapley, Richard	Absence through being a measles contact
Ratcliffe, Cyril	Illness- cough and cold. Later transferred to a school closer to home.
Roberts, A	Stole and killed a young bird from nest in school porch. Named as usually a troublesome boy by the supply head during Mr Bacon's absence.
Robinson, Fenn	Illness- cough and cold
Rowland, Arthur	Illness – measles
Rowland, George	Brother of Arthur and told to stay away as a contact of measles.
Searle, Leslie	Illness- cough and cold and frequent fainting attacks.
Shoubridge, Edward	Re-admitted. Caught playing truant by SAO (bird nesting). Later withdrawn when his father died.
Stark Frederick	Illness - sore feet. Withdrawn when parents left district.
Stickles, Edward	Withdrawn when parents left district
Whymark, John	Re-admitted then later withdrawn when parents left district

Synopsis of 1914

Staff Mr William Bacon, Headmaster
Miss Lilian Mitchell, Assistant Teacher

Average attendances

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|---------|
| • Winter: | 83.5% | Roll: | 40 - 45 |
| • Summer: | 86.2% | Roll: | 43 - 44 |
| • Autumn: | 89.1% | Roll: | 42 - 43 |

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – heavy rain, high floods (said to be a record), storms.
- Illness – influenza, coughs and colds, measles, accidents, scarlet fever, sore throats, debility, range of minor ailments through constantly getting wet.
- Agricultural work- potato planting and collecting, hay making, hop picking, threshing.
- Below average attendances due to scarlet fever outbreaks (many stayed away for fear of infection), one or two very sickly children and floods resulted in regular cancellation of monthly half day holiday given for attendance over 92% (raised from 90% in January).

Regular visitors to school

- Vicar – Rev. Baker
- SAO – Mr Richardson
- HMI - Mr F Witcombe, Mr S Gill
- Medical Officer – Dr Stanley Child
- School nurse – Miss Kitson (newly appointed in February)
- School dentist – Mr Wallis
- School manager (one of) – WA Calvert Esq
- Lady Burrell and her children visited one afternoon in September.

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Ash Wednesday observed by assembling at 9.45am and walking to church for a service at 11am. Registers were not marked and a half day holiday given.
- Ascension Day was marked with an hour's scripture lesson after which the children went home. It was noted that fewer children than usual attended. There was no church service due to the vicar being injured in a motoring accident.
- The Diocesan Inspector, the Rev RB Jameson, visited on 29 May. Prior to this a syllabus of the work covered was sent to his office. The report was favourable, with boys being able to memorise catechism and answer thoughtfully. Lessons were conscientiously and zealously given, and written exercises were done correctly. This was the first year that written work was done on paper.

Subjects studied and games played

- **General syllabus:** *Mathematics* – wooden measures, cubes and cardboard coins (see below) received in January to commence teaching of 'The New Practical Every-day Arithmetic'. Boys measured areas of school room and worked on associated problems. Good progress in arithmetic reported in November. *Geography* – new readers for commencement in April, equinoxes and solstices explained in conjunction with drawing lesson, instruction received to send 25 copies of 'Nelsons World and its People' to a school in Horsham and 24 'Europe and its' Peoples' to Sompting (indicates these were used prior to arrival of new text books). *Nature study* – lichens, a growing acorn suspended above water, soaked peas, use of 'Nesbit's Nature Study', a frog, illustrated by live specimens brought in by the boys, wild flowers, hops and Virginia creeper, ivy. Improvement was recorded in keeping notes in nature study record books. Lessons on the constellations

'The Great Bear, The Guards, Cassiopeia, Pegasus and Andromeda' from 'Nesbit's Nature Study'. *Reading* – new readers for seniors received in September.

- **Drawing:** map of parish, diagram of sun and earth's orbit, free hand drawing of cube, prism and square. Modelling and paper folding.
- **Songs learned:** a new patriotic song 'Ready! Aye Ready!'

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- Notice of Labour Certificate Examination to be held on 30 May at Denne Road Horsham received on 26 April. There were no candidates, nor for the November examination.
- A new timetable was received on 9 May and an analysis sent to HMI on 22 May. Timetable was framed and hung on a wall. There appeared to be much emphasis on form filling and procedures.
- Individually examined in reading in July
- Mr Gill visited in November. There is no comment on findings.

National events, celebrations and outings

- A half day holiday was given at the beginning of October for the school treat being held at Knepp Castle.

Fabric of school building

- School cleaned throughout during all vacations.
- Cold dry weather in January and temperature remained below 50°F (10°C) with north windows remaining frosted until mid-day. However new heating meant that work was not uncomfortable.
- Bigger boys were reprimanded for making gaps in quickset hedge and entering the field. Playtime was reduced as a punishment.
- School doctor inspected the 'school offices' (WCs) in addition to seeing children.
- Black boarded fence in playground in dilapidated state. Examined by Mr Harding, builder, on 6 April. Problem referred to again in May, and Mr Bacon unable to report it to the vicar who was ill from a motoring accident. Condemned as dangerous by Mr Witcombe, Inspector, on 17 July. Wood and wire fencing received end July. In August sheep got into the playground, complaints were sent to the managers and work on repairing the fence began in September. The work was not completed and building debris was left behind, causing a hazard to the children. Rubbish collected into one heap two weeks later. Work finally completed in October by Mr Harding.
- Urinal drain blocked due to crumbling cement and tiles. Cleared by Mr Bacon 'with difficulty'. A second blockage caused by boys filling it with sticks and pebbles. Boys made to disinfect it before cleaning it out.
- Premises and WCs inspected by Mr Calvert, a school manager, in April when fences found to be in poor condition. (see above)
- Fires were not lit until 13 November.
- A ton of coal was delivered in January, February, March and December. The December delivery was by Mr Tidey of West Grinstead and included 25 faggots.
- Visit by Mr Paton of Inland Revenue on 18 December to make a valuation of the school and school house.

Points of interest

- Timetable adjusted on 3 February to allow teachers to attend funeral of Mrs Belloc of Kingsland at West Grinstead Catholic Church. Mr Hilaire Belloc sent a carriage to transport them. No teaching time was missed.
- Newspaper cutting from 14 Feb 1914 enclosed in Log records that West Sussex Education Committee considered that cardboard coins would encourage children to fraud so their use was discontinued. By 27 March this order was cancelled and cardboard coins again used. (Victory for common sense?)
- Same cutting records that efforts were being made by the Care Sub Committee to set up school clinics comprising Correspondent, head teacher and voluntary workers. Temporary premises had been found at Horsham, and the Education Committee was asked to build permanent facilities at a cost of £500. Clinics

and tuberculosis dispensaries were proposed for sites recently purchased for new schools in Shoreham and Horsham.

- Prize day was on 2nd March when books were presented by the vicar and a special prize (silver watch) given for five years perfect attendance to Albert Brown.
- Notices were sent in March to parents of children of 12 years old due for medical checks on 25th March. (Five boys). Two 'specials' and one 'follow on' case also seen.
- In April all boys present were weighed, measured and recorded.
- New school year commenced 1 May, but new term began after Easter holiday on 24 April. Five boys admitted from Infant Department on 3 April.
- Monthly attendance percentages raised in January from 90% to 92% to qualify for a half day holiday. Subsequently, poor attendance in March due mainly to exceptionally high flooding precluded a half day holiday. Ditto April due to sickness of two pupils.
- Younger boys allowed to have their dinners at school during the wet weather in March, but had to be allowed out to play as running around 'forbidden' in school.
- Notices sent on 14 April to parents of children requiring dental treatment.
- Absences for potato planting and other agricultural work increased in May, and boys were cautioned about this by SAO.
- Boys warned against stone throwing after a skylight was broken by same. Boy responsible given detention and told to report it to his father.
- Much attention given to form filling and submission of same to Worthing or Education office. Possibly indicates that text books were regularly circulated between schools in the county.
- School dentist visited on several occasions, but it appears only selected age groups were seen, and only those for whom parental consent had been received.
- Outbreak of scarlet fever on 12 June. Education Office decided not to close school, but arranged for Dr Childs to examine the hands of every child. Some were advised not to attend for a few days, but it was noted that many boys had been kept at home because of the scare. By 3 July most boys had returned to school, the scare over. At one point 19 absent, most being kept home as a precaution.
- In June Mr Bacon attended head Teachers Conference at Worthing where medical treatment for children and proposed parental contribution were discussed.
- Miss Lilian Mitchell sat for 'Oxford Senior Local' examination in July. No record of her results.
- Dr Childs visited at start of September and inspected all hands. (Can hands give an early indication of scarlet fever? Same procedure was followed at outbreak in June.) Visited again in October when his attention was drawn to a child whose weight was causing concern. He had grown $\frac{3}{4}$ inch but gained only $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
- Outbreak of scarlet fever on 30 October – a child from Infant Dept.
- Notice of a course for teachers on arithmetic syllabus to be held in Horsham received and Miss Mitchell signed up.
- Sixth Annual Medical Report received in October.
- Several dental extractions carried out by school dentist in October. Operations took place in Mr Bacon's house.
- Mr Bacon paid out the shoe club money with bonus on last day of term, 23 Dec 1914.

Events related to 1914 – 1918 war

- School re-opened on 7 September and Mr Bacon gave an explanation about 'the terrible European War which has broken out and in which our country is involved'.
- On 20 October a circular received – 'Prayer in Schools during the present war'. Mr Bacon wrote that in fact special prayers had been said daily since the beginning of term, but he duly modified the timetable to include the singing of the National Anthem at noon as instructed.
- Enclosed with the above instructions was a pamphlet written by The Rt Hon JA Pease, MP 'Why did we go to war?' Mr Bacon explained this to the younger boys, while the older boys read it themselves.

- Special regulations due to the war allowed boys between the ages of 12 and 14 years to leave school in order to take up employment in agriculture. Each applicant was considered individually. George Johnson, who qualified for this special application, went into farm work.
- Stanley Booker of the Rifle Brigade, a past pupil, was reported as a prisoner of war in Germany on 20 November.
- In response to an appeal for soldiers at war the children bought a batch of red handkerchiefs in December.

Children mentioned by name

Beans, John	Left school at end of 1913 having reached 14 years of age
Booker, Peter	Absent with a cold at time of news of his brother being taken prisoner.
Brown, Albert	Presented with silver watch for 5 years perfect attendance
Brown, Arthur	Left school at end of 1913 having reached 14 years of age
Brown, Charles	Injured accidentally in playground by stick poking his eye. Subsequently absent
Burchell, Frederick	Influenza. Hop picking in September. Withdrawn aged 14 in December
Burnham, Ernest	Returned to school 24 April after 4 months absence due to illness. Said to have debility and very poor legs. After 9 weeks absence was admitted to Dyke Road Hospital, Brighton with a hip complaint.
Creasy, Frank	Tooth extracted by school dentist. Later absent with scarlet fever (unclear if he had it or was a contact)
Fielder, William	Collected early by his father due to illness of his mother. His morning attendance mark cancelled and was absent for rest of week.
Gratwicke, Harry	Absent with a cold
Hughes, Frederick	Return after recovery from measles. Later broke a skylight with a stone.
Johnson, George	Withdrawn under war dispensation for farm work before reaching 14.
Johnson, John	Absent with kidney problems and pneumonia
King, Frank	Returned after 8 weeks absence from measles. Sick at school then further absence.
Low, W R	New admission aged 10.5 years, but only to Std II
Martin, Hunter	Potato picking in September, helping father with threshing in October.
Masters, Ernest	Admitted 6 March aged nearly 14 but only capable of Std IV
Merritt, Charlie	Brought in specimen of 'elecampane' for nature study
Monnery, Ernest	A 'delicate little boy' fell and broke his arm in the playground. Miss Mitchell accompanied him home. Excluded in October as his little brother had scarlet fever, which he then acquired. Removed from register in January 1915 on leaving the parish.
Muggeridge, Wallace	Withdrawn at age 14
Arthur Newman	Withdrawn as parents left parish
Leonard Newman	Withdrawn as parents left parish
Rapley, Percy	Absent with bad leg and sores. Scalded by falling kettle at home in November.
Rice, John	New admission, very poor and living in a barn at Copyhold
Rice, Thomas	Re-admission, very poor and living in a barn at Copyhold

Roberts, George	Accidentally hurt a pupil whilst running with a stick – dangers of such behaviour pointed out by Mr Bacon. Hop picking in September.
Rowland, George	Withdrawn at age 14
Rowland, Raymond	Parents left parish in summer, helping his father truss straw in October
Searle, Leslie	Returned to school after 9 weeks absence through illness. Withdrawn aged 14 in September.

Synopsis of 1915

Staff Mr William Bacon, Headmaster
Miss Lilian Mitchell, Assistant Teacher

Average attendances

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|---------|
| • Winter: | 87.2% | Roll: | 36 - 44 |
| • Summer: | 92.5% | Roll: | 37 - 42 |
| • Autumn: | 93.3% | Roll: | 36 - 40 |

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – heavy rain, snow, high floods,
- Illness - coughs and colds, sore throats, influenza, tonsillitis,
- Unauthorised absences – agricultural work scarcely mentioned this year, but many older boys regularly absent to help at home, sometimes to look after sick parents or younger siblings or to help move house. Some probably engaged in agricultural work as the war progressed.

Regular visitors to school

- Vicar – Rev. Baker
- SAO – Mr Richardson
- HMI -Mr S Gill, Mr F Witcombe,
- Medical Officer – Dr Stanley Child
- School manager (one of) – WA Calvert Esq
- Physical Drill Instructress – Miss Davies
- School Nurse – Miss Jeans, Miss Druitt
- Miss Hopton – relationship with School not specified

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day were observed as a Sunday and registers were not marked.
- Notice of Diocesan Examination received on 7 May. This was held on 4th June by the Rev RB Jameson. The report was favourable, with Mr Bacon being described as a kind and conscientious teacher and the boys answering thoughtful and generally accurate. Comparison with other schools was impossible as Shipley Boys was the only school in the diocese using the old syllabus. The use of the updated syllabus was recommended if met with approval by the school managers. (The Girls were using the new syllabus).

Subjects studied and games played

- **General syllabus:** *Mathematics* – new approach suggested by HMI in June. (see below) Standards were split as per recommendation and older boys worked on capacity, weight, length and time. Vulgar fractions were used. Younger boys had tests on simple rules and a record of sums was kept. Progress in neatness recorded in October. *Nature Study* – The mariners compass, phases of the moon, experiment with iodine and starch, surface film on water, pump and atmospheric pressure, flower of the wild rose, the hop plant. Improvement in keeping the Record of Observations notebooks up to date was noted. *History* – ‘Chambers History of England’ Readers received in May from Findon School. ‘Piers Plowman History Readers’ were sent to Fishbourne School. *Composition* – description of a walk to the hop garden, some boys kept behind in September to rewrite careless work,
- **Drawing:** Paper folding and modelling mentioned, but unclear where this fits in syllabus. Possibly part of scale and perspective work covered in drawing? Brushwork of one boy, a bramble spray from nature, was praised.
- **Games:** Drill.

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- Notice of scholarships was received in February.
- Labour Certificate Examination scheduled for 15 May. Two boys were entered and both passed. The next examination was held on 13 November – no mention of any entries.
- Examinations on the previous year's work held in March. (School year ran from April regardless of when school closed for the Easter vacation). Termly examination held July and December.
- HMI, Mr Gill, visited in June and examined the school in 'the 3 Rs'. Standards III – VII should be split into two groups and present books discarded. These were 'The Practical Everyday Arithmetic' approved by the Board of Education for use in rural schools. Mr Bacon accordingly wrote to Mr Russell about the new grouping and text books and received a reply saying 'don't hurry'. Mr Bacon wrote to Mr Gill at the end of July with a proposal, and noted that progress had been made with the new groupings. In September permission was received to 'try the scheme'.
- HMI, Mr Witcombe, visited on 22 October, and stayed nearly all day. He examined official records, including the Log Book, Syllabus and work in progress, and took away work. As it was Trafalgar Day he gave the boys a talk about Nelson.

National events, celebrations and outings

- A conjuror and a ventriloquist (Mr Berkeley) visited in July to entertain the children.

Fabric of school building

- A new directive was received in January from the Education Office that coal should be weighed in the bag in front of staff before being deposited. This caused a problem when a delivery arrived on a Saturday afternoon when Mr Bacon was absent, and again when he was otherwise detained in school on other business. Boys noted on that occasion only 9 bags were deposited instead of 10, and this was rectified on the next delivery. (Officialdom perhaps justified?). In July proposals were made to deposit coal in the school yard as the cellar was too small for a full load. Mr Bacon opposed this strongly as when this happened before the coal got wet and mixed with mud and stones and spat dangerously when used.
- School was thoroughly cleaned during vacations.
- The school ran out of coal in the snow of January, so Mr Bacon cut up old discarded fencing as fuel. Supplies received in late January after a week without fuel. Further supplies received in February, but which ran out three weeks later, so fencing again used. Temperature in the classroom remained below 50°F (10°C) all day. Coal received again in March, April, September, November and December. Bundles of faggots were also received on some occasions.
- Mr Bacon carried out repairs to ventilator, harmonium, girls' clock and fence in May.
- A manager of a Worthing school arrived unannounced on a Saturday to look at the heating system which Mr Bacon said was working efficiently.
- The pump in the boys' cloakroom needed a new washer which was made by Mr Sturt and fitted by Mr Bacon.
- The padlock to the roadside gate had rusted and disintegrated and the gate itself was in poor condition in October.
- In October Mr Witcombe inspected the WCs and surrounding area, which he found in 'an unsightly state' as the contents of the buckets had not been buried despite a man employed for this.
- On 6 December a builder, Mr Baker, assessed leaks attributed to lead guttering.
- Drains in the boys' WC blocked in December, and cleaned out with difficulty by Mr Bacon assisted by some of the boys. (Question – there was a man employed to keep the buckets from the WCs emptied – why did he not see to problems such as this? Mr Bacon repeatedly does such tasks himself).

Points of interest

- Class dismissed early one snowy January day, but time was made up by reduced play during lunch break.
- In February during high floods only 13 boys got to school. This was a regular occurrence. On such days registers were not marked.
- Medical inspection for selected groups scheduled for 12 March and notices sent to parents. School nurse inspected all heads and found them clean, the same happening in November.
- Dentist visited on 19 March to inspect teeth of 6 – 9 year olds. Five boys need attention and notices were sent to parents. He visited again in September for two extractions.
- List of prize books sent to Education Office on 26 March and presented at the end of the school year in April.
- Mr Bacon appeared to be annoyed that the new history readers received in May had been in use for 10 years by other schools and were in a dilapidated condition.
- Miss Lilian Mitchell sat for the Oxford Senior Local Examination at Horsham in July. This may indicate she failed to qualify last year.
- Hop picking in the parish finished during the first week of October and only one boy took time off to help.
- In October the Education office sent out a circular advising economy when ordering stationery. Cost of items detailed as follows: Penholders 2/- per gross, pen nibs 9d per gross, pencils special 5/6d per gross, rubbers not exceeding 4/6d per lb., foolscap 4/6d and 5/6d per ream. The mailing also contained a request to return readers or other stock not required – perhaps an indication of war time shortages. A further circular was entitled 'Economy in Fuel'.
- Miss Lilian Mitchell's salary was increased by £4.00 per annum in November, to be backdated to 1 October. Was this an indication that she had passed her Oxford examination?
- Shoe Club money once more distributed on St Thomas' day – 23 December – after which school closed for the holidays.

Events related to 1914 – 1918 war

- Letters received from wounded soldiers in hospital thanking the children for the handkerchiefs.
- More handkerchiefs sent in January.
- Edward Rapley left under Special Wartime Resolution allowing boys over 12 to start work. Followed by Frederick Turner, George Roberts and Hunter Martin.
- Lady Burrell lent Mr Bacon a book 'The War 1914' by Elizabeth O'Neill to be read to the children. Mr Bacon refers to the war as 'The Great War', the first time this description is used by him.
- In response to an appeal in May for eggs for wounded soldiers several boys brought in eggs and one boy contributed one shilling as he could not get hold of eggs.
- Miss Hopton visited in September and left Red Cross cards for Mr Bacon to complete with names of those who had enlisted from Shipley for 'King and Country' and 'Roll of Honour'. Disappointingly, names are not mentioned.
- Several 'old boys' who had signed up and were on leave prior to embarkation to 'the seat of war' visited the School in September.
- At the same time an armoured car was parked nearby outside Kingsland, and was of great interest. Mr Bacon visited the detachment taking along tea, cake and fruit.
- There was also a number of cavalry of the 1/1st South Wilts Mounted Brigade carrying out manoeuvres in the parish operating in conjunction with aeroplanes. Mr Bacon writes 'These military movements were a novelty for Shipley – nothing of the kind has occurred in my experience of forty years'.
- Two booklets received from the Education Office in September entitled 'Economy in Food' and 'The Great War and how it arose'.
- A collection was made for the 'Overseas Club', whose patron was the King, for gifts to send to soldiers and sailors. One penny was brought by every child, many brought more and the total was £1.6.8d. The children were delighted to receive illuminated certificates and copies of Queen Alexandra's letter.

- A parade around the parish was held on 3 December to raise money for the Red Cross. The boys were given a half day's holiday to attend, which combined with the half day for good attendance in October made a whole day off.

Children mentioned by name

Bateman, Gurney	New admission, described as a delicate boy.
Bean, George	Entered for Labour Certificate Examination, passed and left for farm work.
Bean, James	Absent without explanation, later left parish
Booker, Peter	Absent with tonsillitis
Burnham, Ernest	Absent in hospital. Advised by doctor unlikely to ever attend school again.
Fielder, William	Absent with heavy cold
Gratwicke, Harry	Fell off his bicycle and was concussed.
Hayler, Cyril	His crayon work commended
Hughes, Frederick	Withdrawn to a school nearer home
Johnson, John	Absent helping father who was a stockman.
Johnson, William	Hop picking, then left parish
Laker, Charles	Absent due to his mother being ill, and otherwise alone.
Low, William	Absent without explanation, later left parish
Martin, Hunter	Frequently absent to help at home – his mother dying of cancer – nearly 14 but unable to read or spell. (Dyslexia?) Left school under war directive that allowed boys of 12 to go to work.
Merritt, Charles	His brushwork commended on more than one occasion
Monnery, Ernest	Re-admitted after long periods of illness and having left the parish
King, F	Entered for Labour Certificate Examination, passed and left for farm work
Pickett, Arthur	Receiving treatment at Brighton for a squint
Pickett, William	Tooth extracted by school dentist
Rapley, Edward	Absent looking after siblings while father ill. Application subsequently received for permission to leave school under war directive that allowed boys of 12 to go to work.
Rapley, John	Helped Percy (See below, not a relative)
Rapley, Percy	A delicate boy, kicked accidentally while playing. Walked home with difficulty, helped by two boys who rescued him in a wheelbarrow.
Rapley, Richard	Helped Percy (See above, not a relative)
Rapley, William	Unable to walk from Crookhorn due to having very sore feet. Tooth extracted by school dentist.
Roberts, Arthur	Absent with a sore throat
Roberts, George	Left school under war directive that allowed boys of 12 to go to work.
Rowland, Arthur	Application to leave under war directive that allowed boys of 12 to go to work was refused. Absent in November helping his parents move to 'Honeypoles'.
Rowland, Raymond	Withdrawn to attend a school nearer his home.
Turner, Frederick	Left school under war directive that allowed boys of 12 to go to work.

Synopsis of 1916

Staff Mr William Bacon, Headmaster
Miss Lilian Mitchell, Assistant Teacher

Average attendances

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|---------|
| • Winter: | 90.5% | Roll: | 35 - 40 |
| • Summer: | 91.2% | Roll: | 35 - 39 |
| • Autumn: | 87.9% | Roll: | 27 - 33 |

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – heavy rain, snow, floods, gales, storms.
- Illness - coughs and colds, chilblains (unable to wear boots), sores, influenza, sickness, giddiness, headaches, chickenpox, fainting, kidney disease, accidents, toothache, influenza.
- Agricultural work – hay making, hop picking, beating, unspecified farm work.

Regular visitors to school

- Vicar – Rev. Baker
- SAO – Mr Richardson until 21 January, then post remained vacant until September
- SAO – Mr TH Griffiths from 15 September
- HMI – Mr S Gill, Mr F Witcombe
- Medical Officer – Dr Stanley Child
- School manager (one of) – WA Calvert Esq
- Lady Burrell, Miss Hopton
- School nurse – unnamed

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Ash Wednesday was observed 'as usual' – (usually by attending Church followed by dismissal).
- Ascension Day was observed as a Sunday.
- Notice of Diocesan Inspection received on 5 May and carried out on 29 May. The report noted that the Boys' Department was still without the Diocesan Syllabus and that work was behind that in other schools. The cost of the syllabus was 6d from Charles Pell in Brighton. Mr Bacon was commended for his plain and practical teaching of Christian beliefs and the boys answered well, but the younger boys needed to think more and answer in their own words.
- New 'Syllabus of Religious Instruction' received on 15 December – 'so long been wanted'.

Subjects studied and games played

- **General syllabus:** *Mathematics* - problems, tests from Pitman's cards and McDougall's Suggestive Arithmetic, measuring, calculating area of whitewashed walls and match boarding in school room, calculating area of playground by use of a Gunter's Chain, diagrams to illustrate fractions. *Nature Study* – the gorse plant, boiling water in a glass flask, clouds, experiment to demonstrate air pressure, experiments with methylated spirit, iodine, nasturtium and violet leaves, shadow cast by sun, geographical and magnetic north, drawing of miniature maps of the parish and recording main features. Experiments with a magnet, making gas with a clay pipe. *Composition* – answering newspaper advertisements. *Geography* - a map of the Balkans.
- **Drawing:** a pink hyacinth grown in a glass bottle was used for modelling, drawing and painting at various stages of its growth. Clay modelling and paper cutting done by the younger boys. Drawing and colouring diagrams to prove mathematical rules.
- **Games:** Drill.

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- Examinations of the past year's work took place in March, and termly exams in July and December.
- Labour Examination Certificate was scheduled for May and October. There were no candidates.
- In April notice received about Scholarship Examination and 'Shakespeare Tercentenary Medallion'

National events, celebrations and outings

- A school treat was given by Sir Merrick and Lady Burrell at Knepp Castle on Saturday 16 September.

Fabric of school building

- Cleaning of school took place each vacation, described as being well done.
- Coal was delivered in January, March x 2, October, November and December.
- Work began on mending the leaking lead guttering between the School and School House in February.
- Dust clouds from playground entering school, combined with poor weather had damaging effects on health.
- Two boys broke the cast iron down pipes by one lifting the other to hold it then letting go.
- Mr Bacon wrote to Farmer Covill of Butterstocks in July asking for the removal of decaying charlock which had been deposited close to the school windows and was causing a stench, even with the windows closed. Having had no response within a week Mr Bacon wrote again saying he would have to inform the medical officer. Action was taken and the offending stuff burned on 7 fires in the field.
- Leak in roof causing damp ceiling in classroom.
- Mr Peter Stepney, who cleaned the WCs, unwell in October and his job done by Mr William Harding.
- Fires were started on 3 November, more because of damp than cold, as the temperature was 51°F (10.5°C). Below 50°F appeared to be the tipping point, although on 16 June the temperature registered 51°F and a fire was lit.

Points of interest

- A circular was received in January about 'Milking Instruction'. This was explained and posted on the wall. There is no explanation as to what this might mean.
- It is difficult to imagine the circumstances today in which a boy could be sent from school to seek a doctor in Billingshurst and Horsham to attend to a child who had sustained a broken arm. The child was disabled and fell from her wheelchair while freewheeling down the hill. Albert Merritt was probably one of the older boys with a bicycle, but we don't know this. The injured child was Dorothy Creasey from the Girls' Department.
- Mr Bacon sent away a travelling salesman selling expensive books on Handcraft.
- A boy who attained 15 years of age had to be listed in a separate register. No indication of why he might still be at school. He left shortly after.
- Dr Childs, School MO, visited in March to examine selected age groups. Nine were examined. One boy, whose mother was present, fainted during the procedure. He was described as delicate with kidney disease, but he frequently worked on a farm before and after school. All children were weighed and measured.
- A form bearing the regulations for exclusion because of infectious disease was to be displayed near the headmaster's desk.
- In April the poor weather was said to be affecting even the biggest boys. 13 absent one day, many suffering from giddiness, headache and sickness.
- Two poor boys admitted in May from Roffey School. They had been in the Union (workhouse) five times since 1911. Their father was in Canada and their mother had come to work at Butterstocks. The younger was said to be out of control and that his mother could do nothing with him. He eventually responded to Mr Bacon's treatment and started to make good progress. He got his finger trapped while clearing the teeth of a mowing machine on Butterstocks in July. His middle finger was nearly severed, but took just two days off school and did fair work with his left hand on return. (see Frank Knight below)
- Miss Mitchell unable to attend school on 30 June as her brother was being operated on at home. She notified the school by telegram.

- Lady Burrell visited in October in connection with a collection for 'Pound Day' at Horsham Hospital. The children brought in foodstuffs.
- The Rev Baker visited with his wife on 27 October. This was her first visit since marrying in July.
- A new nurse started her visits in October. She inspected heads and found them clean.
- Boys told not to play at foxhunting through the quickset hedge which had not been cut back since July 1913 and was now high and covered in brambles.
- Shoe club money paid out on 20 December. Total was £17.17.1d.

Events related to 1914 – 1918 war

- SAO, Mr Richardson, enlisted in the Army and commenced his duties at the end of January.
- The Vicar instructed that half day holiday was given in May on account of the Girls' parade on behalf of the Red Cross Fund.
- Daylight saving started in May for the first time. Mr Bacon notes it was the first time ever on record that it was 8am by the sun but 9am by the clock. He recorded that not a single child was late for school.
- The wartime regulation that allowed boys to leave school between ages 12 to 14 was taken up by Thomas Lucas, Arthur Rowland, John Norris, Percy Rapley and Charles Brown.
- The 'National War Savings Scheme' was explained to the boys and leaflets from HM Stationery Office distributed.
- One child unable to concentrate – see Peter Booker below.
- Charles Laker described his experience of war – see below
- 21 September was the first Jack Cornwell Day – a boy sailor posthumously awarded the VC at the Battle of Jutland in May 1916. A fund was set up for a Jack Cornwell ward at the Star and Garter Sailors Home in Richmond and each child brought in a penny, some more, including silver coins. Each child received a stamp portrait and Mr Bacon read a brief history to them. 7/ 1d was sent and subsequently acknowledged.

Children mentioned by name

Adams, Wilfred	Absent through illness
Bateman, Gurney	Absent through illness
Booker, Peter	A delicate little boy, absent through illness. By June unable to concentrate – his father fighting in France and his brother Stanley a prisoner of war in Germany and his mother ill. Absent hop picking in September.
Brown, Albert	Left parish
Brown, Charles	Influenza. Application to leave school under war measures. Absent hop picking in September. Said to be backward but making progress in December. A week later permission to leave under war regulations granted.
Cherriman, Frederick	Absent through illness – sores on body
Cherriman, Harold	Absent through illness – sores on body. Broke down pipes.
Creasey, Frank	Absent with cough.
Fielder, William	Aged 15, but still at school in March – withdrawn in May.
Gratwicke, Harry	Left school just before 14 for farm work. Described as backward, but had learned to read since joining 3 ½ years previously.
Hayler, Cyril	Absent because of poor weather
Hayler, Herbert	Left parish
Hayler, Percy	Left parish
Holmes, Reginald	Absent with diarrhoea then left parish
Johnson, John	Delicate and with kidney disease, fainted during medical examination.

	Frequently worked before and after school. Worked as a beater in September and advised by Mr Bacon about excess working after his life had been in danger from overwork in July . Said to be backward but making progress in December.
Knight, Ernest	Transferred from Roffey School
Knight, Frank	Transferred from Roffey School . Farming accident in July – see above.
Laker, Charles	An old boy, visited school in June and described his experience of being a gun-layer in the Battle of Jutland on one of the battleships in May.
Lucas, James	Collected 'freak' specimens for nature study
Lucas, Thomas	Left school under war directive that allowed boys of 12 to go to work.
Merritt, Albert (twin)	Absent for a day to travel to Billingshurst and Horsham to fetch a doctor to come and treat a pupil from the Girls' department who had sustained an accident. (Dorothy Creasey). Given lesson on fretwork. Left aged 14 in July.
Merritt, Charles (twin)	Excels in brushwork (Painting?) Given lesson on fretwork – one of his geometric designs was pasted on a cigar box lid. Consistently praised for his good brushwork. Left aged 14 in July.
Merritt, Percy	Influenza
Monnery, Ernest	Absent through acting as a beater, then left parish
Monnery, Leslie	Left parish
Norris, John	Left school under war directive that allowed boys of 12 to go into farm work
Penfold, Alfred	Admitted age 12 unable to read or do sums. Needed constant watching – described as idiotic. Influenza.
Pickett, Arthur	Absent through illness
Powell, Peter	Chickenpox. Unable to attend in snow as ground across fields impassable.
Pugh, Thomas	Unexplained absence
Rapley, Percy	Left school under war directive that allowed boys of 12 to go into farm work
Rapley, Richard	Withdrawn aged 14
Rapley, William	Broke cast iron down pipe
Roberts, Arthur	Absent through illness, then through hay making. Applied to leave under war directive refused. Said to be backward but making progress in December.
Robinson, Edward	Absent through illness. Absent because of poor weather
Rowland, Arthur	Left school under war directive that allowed boys of 12 to go into farm work. His previous application had been rejected.
Rowland, Peter	Absent through illness
Stepney, Reginald	Absent without explanation
Willis, Percy	New admission, from the 'wandering class '. Described as mentally defective and backward although can write fairly and read a simple book. At 10 ½ years old unable to do a simple addition. Left in November.
Willis, Robert	New admission, from the 'wandering class and backward having been to five different schools'. Left in November.

Synopsis of 1917

Staff Mr William Bacon, Headmaster
Miss Lilian Mitchell, Assistant Teacher

Average attendances

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|---------|
| • Winter: | 89% | Roll: | 27 - 28 |
| • Summer: | 94.6% | Roll: | 31 - 32 |
| • Autumn: | 92.7% | Roll: | 32 |

Causes of absence

- Bad weather – heavy rain, snow, (three boys unable to return for afternoon school on 9 March due to a snowstorm).
- Illness – coughs and colds, accidents, scabies, impetigo.
- Local events –.
- Farm work – unauthorised absences lowered monthly averages in March. Five boys absent potato picking in October. They were visited by SAO and attended school for the rest of the week.
- Other - no boots to wear to school.

Regular visitors to school

- Vicar – Rev. Baker
- SAO – Mr Griffiths
- HMI - Mr F Witcombe
- Medical Officer – Dr Bennett of Billingshurst
- School nurse – Mrs Willes, Miss Torr

Religious observances and Diocesan exams

- Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day observed as a Sunday and registers not marked. No secular lessons given.
- Notice received of Diocesan examination to be held on 23 May. This was carried out by the Rev. C Toogood of Burpham during the morning, and the afternoon was given as a holiday. The report notes that although knowledge of the Bible was quite good, there was a lack of understanding of the meaning of the Catechism and the 'great truths they are taught'. The boys were attentive and showed interest, and some of the older boys gave quite good answers while others gave bad ones. The report was short and focussed on the perceived lack of understanding of the meaning of what the boys were being taught.

Subjects studied and games played

- **General syllabus:** An order for new readers was submitted in May following instructions that the cost should not exceed 12d per head of average attendance. *Mathematics:* Metric system, weights, measures and volumes using horse chestnuts. *Nature Study:* a 'conversational lesson' given on dead specimens of birds brought in by children. A walk around the nearby hop garden with pencils and notebooks was followed by writing up of observations in the nature study books. Bean and peas sown indoors in March for use later in lessons. Watching a motor plough at work provided the subject for an outing in April. Instruction and drawing of parts of bluebells followed a walk to a bluebell wood. Cabbage White butterfly from Nisbet's Book Lesson. In October the senior boys went on a nature walk to study falling leaves. XXXIV. Mr Bacon's final lesson was on the lodestone or bar-magnet, and he noted that during the past three years Nisbet's Book of Nature Study Exercises had been well worked through. *Composition:* letter writing to brothers or fathers in the Services. How the boys spent their half day holiday.

HM Inspector and academic achievement

- Labour Certificate examinations were held in Horsham in May and November. There is no record of candidates from Shipley School being entered.

- End of year individual examinations held on 30 March. Results were used to determine promotions to higher standards.
- End of term examinations were held in July and December.

National events, celebrations and outings

- None recorded this year.

Fabric of school building

- When school reopened after Christmas there was no coal and the temperature in the classroom was 40°F (4.4°C). Coal was delivered later in the day and the temperature rose to 48°F (8.8°C).
- Coal subsequently delivered again in January, February, March (faggots in addition in March). The second March delivery was not witnessed by Mr Bacon (as instructed by Education Office) and boys reported only 9 sacks instead of 10 were deposited. Further deliveries in March, April and June completed the previous winter's supply. Coal for the next winter was ordered in June – 6 tons @ £2.00 per ton and 25 faggots for 6/3d to be supplied by Mr Standing. Deliveries for the next winter began in November.
- Hot water pipe froze in January and flooded the classroom with water and steam. Mr Bacon repaired it with putty and a painted rag and removed rusty sediment and ice from the water tank before refilling it with clean water. He recorded that it had leaked since installation. The temperature was 36°F (2.2°C) at 9am, rising to 40°F (4.4°C) by midday.
- Glass in cloakroom broken by snowballing.
- Piston rod of the pump found to be decayed and permission was sought from a school manager to obtain a replacement. Mr Harding of Coolham was engaged to carry out the work.
- A skylight broken in 1914 was replaced this year in August.
- An inspection by Mr Witcombe in November found the following defects: holes in the floor of the boys' cloakroom, missing roof tiles and broken water shooting on shed in playground.

Points of interest

- Cold dark days in January had a depressing effect on children and quality of work suffered.
- Summer timetable commenced on 2 March so that school finished at 4pm instead of 3.30pm. Lunch hour was adjusted to compensate.
- Miss Torr named as the school nurse in March and Mrs Willis in October. On both occasions inspection of heads was satisfactory.
- Medical inspection was held on 30 March. Four boys were examined, but all were weighed and measured.
- A motor plough was used in the neighbourhood in April and Mr Bacon took the boys to watch. They were 'much interested'.
- A poor average attendance affected not just the granting of a discretionary half day holiday each month, but amount available to spend on text books. This came to light over the ordering of readers (see Subjects studied section).
- Greenwich Mean Time was restored on 17 September.
- The County Council Schools Inspector, Mr Witcombe, visited in October with the vicar and Dr Graves to discuss the future working of the school after Mr Bacon's forthcoming retirement at the end of December.
- On 14 December 1917 Mr Bacon returned to school after the recreation period to be met with a surprise party arranged by Miss Penn, Head of the Girls' School. All the teachers and children were present along with Mrs Baker to wish him well for his retirement. He was presented with an album bearing his initials in gold on the cover. Miss Penn gave him a personal gift of an address book. He found this an emotional experience, and was much moved by the kindness shown by all.
- 14 December was Mr Bacon's last day of teaching. He had commenced as Head on 14 June 1876, and served 41½ years. He retired under the Elementary School Teachers Superannuation Acts 1898 and 1912 at the age

of 65. School closed a week earlier than usual to allow for the rearrangement of the school into a mixed school from the beginning of 1918. He stayed on a further week to help with the transfer of books and stock.

Events related to 1914 – 1918 war

- In February Mr Bacon recorded that temperature in school could be made higher than 45°F (7.2°C) but that it was necessary to economise on coal for the war effort.
- A larger poster advertising National Service was displayed in the classroom in March.
- Boys granted exemption from school under War Regulation for Farm Work – John Johnson, Arthur Roberts.
- Mr Gambier Bolton from the War Office (organising secretary of the Egg Collection Committee) visited to ask the boys for help with collecting eggs for the war wounded.
- Old boys visited in uniform while on leave in Shipley – Tilley family, Thomas Goacher, Dennis Rapley, Percy Streeter; the latter brought his new gas mask which he had been using in France. Several unnamed boys visited in December while on home leave before being sent to the front.
- Several old boys (unnamed) were prisoners of war. Boys with brothers or a father in the services wrote letters occasionally which Mr Bacon corrected to be re written and posted.
- The boys received a certificate from 'Orion' of the 'Daily Express' to thank them for their collection of silver foil and lead paper sent to the 'Sick Soldiers Fund'. 29lb was sent to Miss Peake of Horsham who collects for Sussex.
- A circular about harvesting horse chestnuts was read to the boys in September. The boys collected about two cwt, some of which were used for arithmetic and weighing and measuring volumes. The others may have been intended for the 'Director of Propellant Supplies' at Westminster since a communication was later received from this department 're horse chestnuts'. It was not until the end of November, after Mr Bacon wrote to the department, that he was told the supplies should be sent to a drying station at Messrs King and Barnes Brewery at Bishopric, Horsham. Horse chestnuts from Coolham School were sent to Shipley and the collection was eventually taken by van and two men provided by Sir Merrick Burrell to Horsham. Mr Bacon mentioned that using the chestnuts for practical mathematics had prevented them from going mouldy while they were awaiting collection.
- Special meeting in the Parish Room in September on the 'food question', but no explanation given.
- Two sacks for waste paper were received in October from FJ Parsons Ltd, Observer office, Hastings. Filled exercise books and other material weighing 84lb were later sent to Hastings by train from Southwater. A notice was subsequently received stating that not less than one cwt should be sent at any one time.
- An illustrated poster received in October about the 'British Navy at War' drew much interest from the boys.
- A day's holiday was given in October for a parade through the Parish by the girls for the Red Cross Fund. It was recorded as being a very wet day.
- At assembly on 23 November an account of Sir Julian Byng's 'great victory' was read to the boys who responded with 'very hearty cheers'. (This would have been the Battle of Cambrai, 20 November 1917, when 476 tanks were used in force for the first time.)

Children mentioned by name

Adams, Wilfred	Absent after heavy rain at lunch time prevented return for afternoon session.
Bateman, Gurney	Delicate, often absent. Subsequently left parish.
Bean, James	Readmitted
Booker, Peter	Confessed to breaking window with snowball
Cherriman, Charles	Absent with sickness and stomach pains

Cherriman, Frederick	Absent for 2 days helping parents move house.
Cherriman, Harold	Ran a garden fork through his boot and injured his big toe. Log book for Dec 1926 records him as visiting the school while on holiday from Canada and describing his life and conditions in Saskatchewan.
Francis, William	Unable to attend for 2 days through lack of suitable boots.
Goacher, Thomas	An old boy, visited in uniform of HMS Queen Elizabeth on 2 February.
Harding, Eric	Attended medical inspection and recommended for dental treatment.
Harding, George	Excluded for impetigo
Hayler, Cyril	Commended for drawing and brushwork
Hayler, John	Fell in playground and injured head.
Hayler, Percy	Readmitted as his parents returned to the parish (near Broomers Corner).
Hayler, Sydney	Brought nature specimen to school (head and legs of a dead heron)
Hughes, Frederick	Broke a skylight in May 1914 – repaired in August 1917!
Humphrey, J	Admitted from Infant Dept. in April. Described as a cripple with one leg in irons.
Johnson, John	Absent for 2 days helping parents move house. Brought a dead hawfinch to school for nature study. Unwell on one occasion from exhaustion, having walked with his father to Horsham and back the previous day. Described as a physically weak boy. Kept off school from 21 March to work as plough boy on Jenden's Farm. Application for exemption from school attendance was submitted on 30 March. Granted 20 April and removed from registers.
Merritt, Alfred	Shot at a swallows nest with catapult and broke window. Nearly 20 nests built under the eaves and many young reared.
Millham, James	Absent after being hit with cricket ball after school
Penfold	Absent
Pickett, Arthur	Habitually late.
Pickett, William	Absent with a cold. Habitually late.
Rapley, Dennis	Old boy, visited in khaki 23 November
Rapley, William	Absent with a cold
Roberts, Arthur	Irregular attendances. Application for exemption from school attendance was submitted on 30 March. Granted 20 April and removed from registers.
Rowland, Peter	Absent with sores on face
Streeter, Percy	Old boy, visited in khaki 23 November while on leave from France. He showed the boys the latest gas mask which he had used while in France.
Tilley, Albert	Old boy, visited 22 June in uniform having been to the funeral of mother.
Tilley, Alfred	Old boy, visited 22 June in uniform having been to the funeral of mother
Tilley, Frederick	Old boy, visited 22 June in uniform having been to the funeral of mother
Tilley, Harry	Old boy, visited 22 June in uniform having been to the funeral of mother