

October 1909



Headteacher's log

Monday 3

The school day is to be extended so that schools will be open from 6 am to 10 pm. This is a direct result of the Government's decision to implement the Oliver Report on children's nutrition. Sir James Oliver's committee of inquiry found that children were eating junk food, so a clamour arose for schools to provide healthier school lunches. Obviously, however, children do most of their eating outside school. Yes? Well, no, not after 1 September 1911. From that date, schools will be required to provide all the meals that children eat.

Tuesday 4

Apparently, the air we breathe is becoming increasingly polluted by the exhaust from petrol engines. The papers have been full of this, and last term Ofsted inspectors carried out tests of the atmosphere in schools that they visited. Their report found carbon monoxide in the air in many school buildings. The press immediately accused schools of 'poisoning our children'. Mr Davies, an entrepreneur from Pontypool, knows Mr Lloyd George, and will supply cylinders of fresh air from Snowdonia to schools at a heavily subsidised price. There will, of course, be consequences for the length of the school day because children currently breathe outside school at night.

Wednesday 5

None of our children has been injured in the Wrinkly Riots that are sweeping the country. There were small local disturbances last week, but police and the Loamshire Yeomanry have been patrolling the streets to protect youths from mindless assaults by pensioners. Prior to that, bricks had been thrown from Greenglades Home for the Aged at a group of teenagers engaged in recreation at a bus shelter, and some young street singers were stoned after midnight by catapults in the alms houses.

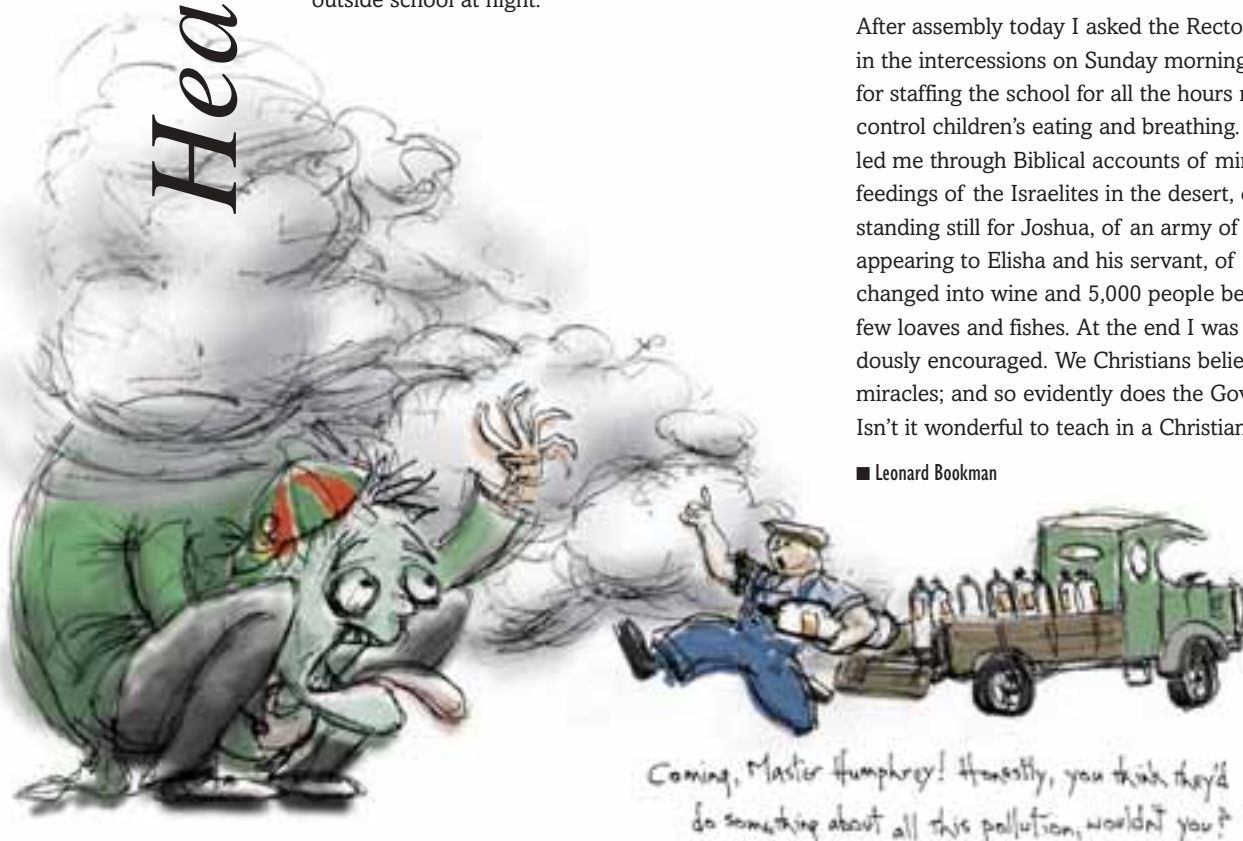
Thursday 6

Miss Melinda Cartwright, our Media Studies Co-ordinator, has attended a course on class management, and she cascaded her findings at a training session this afternoon. She gave us a magic lantern show of challenging behaviour by Kaiser Wilhelm II, and asked us what we would do about it. Miss Oakenstaff suggested putting His Majesty on a Pastoral Support Plan. Miss Cartwright said this was the right answer, but obviously it was a bit late for that now. Had it been applied earlier, she concluded, the future of Europe might be happier. Who monitors these courses?

Friday 7

After assembly today I asked the Rector to include in the intercessions on Sunday morning the need for staffing the school for all the hours required to control children's eating and breathing. He kindly led me through Biblical accounts of miraculous feedings of the Israelites in the desert, of the sun standing still for Joshua, of an army of angels appearing to Elisha and his servant, of water being changed into wine and 5,000 people being fed by a few loaves and fishes. At the end I was tremendously encouraged. We Christians believe in miracles; and so evidently does the Government. Isn't it wonderful to teach in a Christian country?

■ Leonard Bookman



Coming, Master Humphrey! Honestly, you think they'd do something about all this pollution, wouldn't you?