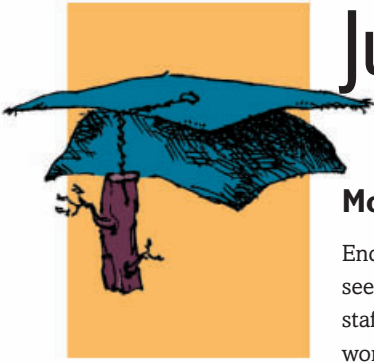


# July 1914



## Headteacher's log

### Monday 6

End of term draws near, and plans for next term seem exceptionally well advanced. We are fully staffed, and our curriculum strategies are all worked out. Only final tweaking is required before the school breaks up. Today I reviewed with our catering manager a list of ingredients that will not be contained in next year's school meals. I also received a bound copy of the new *Diocesan Religious Education Syllabus*, with a letter from Bishop Potsmoker pointing out which Christian beliefs will not be included in next year's acts of worship and RE lessons. I'd take the school out of the Church of England, but the Free Churches don't want religion in schools at all.

### Tuesday 7

A particularly officious junior Ofsted inspector called today. Ofsted chose this late stage in the term to ask how the school will be covering Central European topics in history lessons. I ask you! What possible interest can our children have in the consequences of the topping of an Austrian Archduke in Bosnia? I muttered something about a possible school journey to Montenegro next summer. The government has trialed a scheme for massively reducing youth unemployment which, they say, will be introduced no later than Christmas 1915. Ministers have said nothing about where the jobs will be. Perhaps they know something we don't. I was relieved to get back to reality. I am struggling with next year's budget. There has been a huge increase in the cost of chalk caused, I'm told, by a colossal rise in the world price of wheat.

### Wednesday 8

At last the long delayed KS2 SATS results are coming out. Today we received results for 1911, amidst great staff rejoicing. Unfortunately, delivery of the results to the individual candidates has been delegated to the schools. Some have already entered employment so their interest in the results might have abated. Five children have moved from the village; one of these has emigrated to Australia.

Mr Peel sources his 'canes' from the hedge in School Lane. He tested one this morning on Trevor Wildfowler for insolence in a PE lesson. In the ensuing staff room discussion, Miss Oakenstaff, local secretary of Teachers Opposed to Unnecessary Chastisement (Touch), expressed disgust. Peel replied that in a church school sparing the rod should be forbidden, as it was a biblical command. Miss Cartwright, no more devout than her two colleagues, said if God commanded the beating of children she would punish the Almighty by refusing to believe He existed.

### Thursday 9

Things are moving among the county's schools. Yesterday fifteen freight carts arrived at Slimepond High School to confiscate the furniture, bricks, windows and tiles. These are to be sold to pay the debts of a collapsed American bank, which only recently bought SHS's Private Finance Initiative interest. Secondary school places will, however, be made good by the opening of a cash-and-carry academy dispensing discrete packages of education in exchange for sub-prime mortgages. Mayblossom Primary School burned down on Friday night due, apparently, to an inspector leaving his pipe alight in the staffroom. Ofsted has assured parents that procedures have been tightened up. The school will be reopened as Fanny Mae's Sub-Primary School.

### Friday 10

We've received a green award for our acts of collective worship because they're from 100% recycled material. However, our curate Mr Smoothman gave a rather inorganic presentation this morning, using stones and sand to inform choice of foundations for the house of life. Myrtle Moonraker (Y4) gave the right answer and received as a prize a chocolate St Chryptosporidium, whose day falls tomorrow.

■ Leonard Bookman

