

May 1910



Headteacher's log

Monday 2

I firmed up a meeting I arranged at church yesterday during what used to be called 'The Peace', which our Rector now calls 'Networking'. The congregation was about 20% larger than on previous Sundays, as complete strangers came to make use of contact opportunities. These included Mr Chancer, an educational supplies retailer with whom I shall be placing orders. Wilfred Gudgeon of Year 5 came to my office to have his name entered in the Ferret Book. Wilfred is entitled to free school meals as his father is unemployed because of the potato blight. The government's new cost-effective meals provision policy, combined with careers education and welfare-to-work, is to supply entitled children with ferrets so that they can catch their own lunch.

Tuesday 3

At this morning's staff meeting, I summarised the year-on-year attainment targets we received last week from the LEA. They mean that by 1917, our KS2s will be taking honours degrees. When staff expressed concern, I assured them that by 1915 the school's catchment area would have been reviewed. I also instructed the staff to practise zero tolerance of bad behaviour. I do this every term as my contribution to providing an orderly learning environment.

Wednesday 4

There is great concern in the profession and the educational press about the new President of the Board of Education, Lady Holmes of the Isle of Man. She is said to believe in God, and to be a member of the Church of England, about which several scandalous novels have been written, and which is suspiciously reserved in public about its core beliefs. I have assured worried headteacher colleagues that Lady Holmes would not have reached Cabinet rank if her religious beliefs had made her politically unreliable.

Thursday 5

We are continuously reforming our curriculum to take account of climate change. Mr Peel brought me his plans for transforming the school garden's parsnip patch into a banana plantation. Things are different in the west country, where global warming has caused the Gulf Stream to stop. Already schools in Cornwall are fitting stronger safety fences after a pair of polar bears were sighted mating on St Agnes Island.

Friday 6

After his Friday assembly, our Rector Canon Thunderton Armstrong, compared notes with me about 'Networking' in Sunday services. He is delighted with its evangelistic results so far. The Peace used to make congregations cringe, but Networking is making them grow. I too am pleased. Each May I face threats of resignation to intimidate me into giving lighter playground duties or buying new coffee cups. This year I shall have a reserve of cheap labour. During Networking last Sunday I met three atheists from Argyll and two Wee Frees from the Carse of Gowrie, all looking for jobs as economic migrants from soon-to-be icebound Scotland. They'll do as illegal immigrant teachers, under constant threat of deportation. The Canon says they've all enrolled for the *Alpha* course.

■ Leonard Bookman

