

School Reports 1872-1900



Former National School



Former Chicksgrove School



Former St John's Infants' School

- 1872 British School** - The annual meeting in connection with this school was held on Wednesday last. The scholars were put through a severe test in geography, history and mental arithmetic and answered the various questions very satisfactorily. Several pretty pieces were sung by the children. One of the most interesting features of the meeting was an 'action song' performed by the scholars, the words and time being accompanied by appropriate gestures of the head and hands. The recitations given by the children proved very interesting and attractive. Specimens of the arithmetic, writing, drawing and composition of the school were handed round during the evening for the inspection of the friends. A large number of prizes and rewards were distributed by the chairman to the successful scholars.

Altogether, the children acquitted themselves very creditably and evidently showed that their teacher, Mr Green, is labouring earnestly for their education. Mr Ebenezer Hibberd occupied the chair and urged upon the parents the importance of sending their children regularly to school. The room was tastefully decorated with evergreens and mottoes and crowded to the doors with a good humoured audience, who unmistakably enjoyed the performance of the programme.

Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 21 December 1872

- 1881 Wanted** - Schoolmistress (certified) for New Town School, Tisbury. No one under 25 years of age need apply. Salary £50, house and fuel. It is a mixed school of about 80 children. Apply by letter only giving references to Mrs Benett-Stanford, Pyt House, Tisbury
Western Gazette Friday 22 July 1881

- 1882** The Government Report on the National School at Chicksgrove, for the years 1881-82, is as follows. "The children are in very fair order, and their general progress is in the main satisfactory".
Western Gazette Friday 24 November 1882

Newtown National Mixed School - A year of great success has attended the above school. The percentage has been "A very marked improvement is noticeable throughout the school, no less in regularity and order than in the success with which the children do their work. Their knowledge of the elements is of a very satisfactory character, especially in the upper standards, and the acquisition of grammar in the second and third is also very good.

The repetition of the elder children might, however, have been better selected and the infants should learn more of the simple properties of numbers". The entry on Mrs Smith's parchment is as follows: "M Smith has considerable capacity as a teacher and is very painstaking".

Western Gazette Friday 14 December 1883

- 1884 Chicksgrove Mixed School** - The following report has been received: "More attention has been given to the elements, with the result of improving the attainments of the infants and elder children and placing the school on an altogether more satisfactory footing.
Western Gazette Friday 11 January 1884

Education Department reports:

Boys' School - "The Master keeps his school in very good order and has been very largely successful in his teaching. The only point of weakness was the geography of the 6th and 7th Standards. The reading, (especially of the 2nd Standard, which was very good), the hand writing, spelling, arithmetic and English, all rank high, and the geography is otherwise fairly good". The 'excellent' merit grant was obtained.

Girls' School - "The girls are in very good order and have now reached a high standard of success in their elementary work, which has steadily improved under the present mistress. The reading of the 6th, spelling and arithmetic of the 1st, the repetition of the 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th, and the grammar of the 5th and 6th Standards, are all very good. The needlework is good and the knowledge of the branch of domestic economy studied during the past year is very satisfactory, and the arrangements made for the lessons in cookery have contributed to the practical skill shown today". The 'excellent' merit grant was obtained. Parchment entry - "The discipline is very good, and the instruction has been very effective".

Infants' School - "The infants are under very kind and gentle treatment and have acquired a fair knowledge of the elements of writing and arithmetic. The reading of the children in the lower division is however, only pretty fair, and of those in the upper division, moderate. Care has been taken to give variety to the instruction by means of object lessons and suitable physical exercises, while needlework and knitting have been taught to both girls and boys with fairly good effect". Chicksgrove Mixed School: "The children are in satisfactory order, and have on the whole passed a pretty fair examination in the elementary subjects although the results when compared with those of last year show a falling off to the extent of nearly 12 per cent. Spelling and arithmetic are the two subjects in which weakness is most noticeable, but the passes in reading are only bare passes. The mistress, however, appears to exercise a good moral influence over her scholars and to secure their respect and esteem".

Western Gazette Friday 26 December 1884

1885 Diocesan report

Girls' School - Groups 1, 11 and 11

Each group, in knowledge of Old Testament, New Testament, catechisms and Prayer-book, are respectively marked good, as also in repetition of scripture, hymns, collects, &c. and catechism. Abstracts of writing from memory, marked very good. In the written examination, six gained a first class and 15 a second. Six passed and only one failed". Miss Mabbet's certificate is endorsed, "This school continues to be exceedingly well taught".

Infants' School - Group 1 - Knowledge of Old Testament, New Testament, catechism and Prayer-book, repetition of scripture, hymns, collects &c., and catechisms, each marked good.

Group 11 - Knowledge of Old Testament good; New Testament, very fair; catechism, good. Repetition of scripture, hymns, collects &c and catechism, each good. Inspector's report: "The children are in good order and have been well and kindly taught". This is the endorsement on Miss Lott's certificate.

Western Gazette Friday 19 June 1885

New Town National Mixed School - The school was examined on October 12th by H M Inspectors, Rev S J G Frazer and Mr Coombs. The following gratifying report has been received by Mr and Mrs Benett-Stanford: "The discipline is very good and the elementary work has been excellent. All the writing and arithmetic were done on paper in each standard and with such completeness as to leave only two failures in all (in arithmetic), that is, in the fourth standard.

The recitation and grammar were also well done. The infants read and write very well and are fairly well advanced in their sums. Mr Smith's parchment is endorsed with the following: "The discipline and instruction are highly efficient". During the last four years the school has been raised from its low ebb of 31 per cent of passes, to its present percentage of 98.2. It is needless to say that the "Excellent" merit grant has again been obtained.

Western Gazette Friday 11 December 1885

1896 St John's Infants' School - On Friday, Mrs Alfred Morrison, accompanied by the Misses Morrison, visited the Infants' School and distributed prizes to all the children who had made over 350 attendances during the past year. The first prize for boys was awarded to Arthur Snook, who has made 397 attendances out of the 407 times the school was opened. Lily Northover took the first prize for girls, having made 389 attendances. The Vicar, Rev F E Hutchinson, moved a vote of thanks to Mrs Morrison and spoke in eulogistic terms of the performances of the scholars and of the able instruction given by the Mistress, Mrs Miles.

Western Gazette Friday 24 April 1896

1897 Diocesan Inspection

The annual Diocesan Inspection of the St John's Infant School was held on May 24th by the Rev A Kemble. The following report has been received by the managers: "The school has again passed a highly satisfactory examination. The children appear to be right and happy and fond of their school. Hymns are well sung and prayers well known, including a prayer on behalf of missionary work".

The general quality of religious knowledge, repetition, discipline and tone, especially in regard to religious education as a whole, were all awarded the highest mark of very good. Special mention was made of the following names for best answers: 1st and 2nd groups, Ralph Toms, Elsie Chivers, Ida Northover, Arthur Freemantle, Fred Scott, Bertie Hibberd, George Davey, George Maidment, Ethel Martin, Harry Macey, Cecily Lever, Victor Vincent, Victor Lever, George Parker, Lily Moxham. 3rd and 4th groups, Cecily Woons, Willie Taylor, Elsie Mould, Bertha White, Ethel Rixon, Mabel Read, Arthur Chivers, Willie Snook, Alice Vincent, Alfreda Leaney, August Dominy, Rosie Ball.

Western Gazette Friday 04 June 1897

The National Schools - Miss Margaret Rixon, who recently left the Tisbury National Schools for an appointment at Southall Schools, has been presented by her former scholars and fellow teachers with 13 volumes of classical books as a token of the esteem in which she was held.

Western Gazette Friday 11 May 1900

Infant's School - The annual entertainment given by the infants and the distribution of prizes by Mrs Morrison took place on Monday. There was a very large and appreciative audience, and the little ones acquitted themselves remarkably well. The singing was especially bright and in excellent time and tune. The Rev. W. G. Griffiths accompanied on the pianoforte. After the prizes had been distributed the Vicar thanked Mrs Morrison for her interest in the school, and spoke of the marked improvement in the attendance consequent upon the efforts of the Ladies' Committee. Mrs Morrison expressed the great pleasure it had given her to be present, and spoke in the highest terms of the kinder-garten system of training. There were 39 prizes for regular attendance and 11 special prizes as follows.

Attendance: First prize L Parsons, R Thorn, J Phillips, W Scott, A Mould, B Maidment, G Dominy, E Howell, F Wort, C. Woods, F Northover, H Penny, C Matthews, A Furnell, D Northover. Second prize K Hawkins, E Macey, M Parham, B Mould, H Butt, M Yeats, E Burt, D. Wilkins, J Watkins, B Mould. Third prize F Lambert, R Soper, A Burt, W Poolman, K Kendall, L Taylor, W Fay, E Macey, V Gauler, T Howell, L Mullins, W Coward, E Gauler, P Butt. Special prizes: Perfect attendance Lizzie Parsons (medal), Highest attendance Lizzie Parsons (Bible), Elementary work 1st Charles Woods, 2nd John Watkins, 1st Dorothy Northover, 2nd Katie Kendall, Drawing 1st Victor Miles, 2nd Charles Woods, Good conduct Katie Kendall

Western Gazette Friday 26 October 1900