

OMBERSLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOG BOOKS, JANUARY 1914 TO EASTER 1919

Notes from Pat Niner about the transcription...

I have tried to quote verbatim including abbreviations and punctuation as used in the original. A series of similar entries occurring in sequence are occasionally summarised in *italics*. Other comments from me are in italics too. I had some difficulty with upper case letters, especially as they occur in names. I have put in question marks where I'm not sure.

All the following information on staffing etc is taken from the index pages of the Log Book starting in 1915, updated from information in the Log itself where possible, including the earlier Log.

Head	William George Page (March 1881- January 1918) Thomas E Styles (February 1918 -) Elsie Muriel Craig (July 1918 – January 1919) Temporary post while Styles in Army
Names of assistant teachers? <i>[Unsure of status as not given in this way]</i>	Miss Edith Page (September 1908-December 1917) [daughter of WG Page; Mrs Burgess after December 1915, widowed October 1916] Miss Lilian Cole (January 1908-December 1915) Mrs Stanton (January 1916-) [Previously a teacher at the School] Mrs Styles (February 1918 -)
Names of Pupil Teachers (PTs)? <i>[Unsure of status as not given in this way]</i>	Mrs Abrey (September 1914 – September 1918) [Married daughter of WG Page] Miss Gwendoline Margarita Colbeck (June 1914- [Possibly married Feb. 1919 & now Mrs Beck] Miss Florence Watkins (November 1918-
Names of Teachers, status unknown	Miss Gould (?? – May 1914) Miss Lane (?? – February 1914) [May have been an Assistant Teacher] Miss Ellinor Beatrice Smith (March 1914 – May 1914) [Temporary to replace Miss Lane]
Names of Monitors?	Gladys Smith (October 1912-) Ivy Rea (August 1913-)
Names of governors or managers?	Lord Sandys, Ombersley Court Rev. J Webster, Ombersley Vicarage Mr HC Gardner, Eden Farm Mr RG Gardner, London Mr J Pardoe, Yew Tree House Mr TE Amphlett, Acton Hall Stourport Mr T Amphlett, Brookhampton Stourport Dr JH Hughes (deceased 5/9/1915)
Accommodation	Large room 55'6" X 18' X 15' Class room 30' X 18' X 15' Class room 30' X 18' X 15'

Excused for work	List of boys and girls excused for work by Resolution of the E.A.			
	Name	DoB	<i>Sponsor??</i>	Comment
	Draper, Harry	17/11/04	Mr A Stanton	(left)
	Pickerill, Harry	3/9/04	Rev J Webster	
	Wasman, Herbert[??]	9/6/04	Mr ??oss	
	Warner, Wm.	1/12/04	Mr A Sheppy	(left)
	Grayme[??], Rhoda	20/10/03	Mrs Cupper	(left)
	Green, Jack	25/7/04	Mr Beck	
	Butler, Mollie	13/10/03	Mr J Butler	
	Pugh, Ada	5/4/05	Mrs S Green	
	Bunn, Robert	12/10/04	Mr ? Wood	
	Rushton, Florence	7/8/05	Mr A Green	
	Sanders, Stanley	18/4/05	Mr Adams	(cancelled)
	Pitman, Hubert	5/6/06	Mr S Norman	
	Gwynne, Harry	1/5/04	Mrs Cupper	
	Green, William	20/6/05	Mr Robertson	
	Wheatley, James	23/7/06	Mr ? Wood	
<i>NB: The date and status of this list is unknown. The only name also mention in the text of the Log is Hubert Pitman.</i>				
Other	Agricultural exemptions ceased on 31/3/1919			

DATE	Comment in log book	THEME/KEYWORD
12/1/1914	Good attendance in mixed, very fair in Infants' class.	
21/1/1914	I have only been in & out of school today, as I have a very bad attack of Influenza. Am sorry to say that Miss Gould is almost useless in charge of a class when left to herself. She has no authority whatever over the children.	
28/1/1914	The Collis boys (3) have been taken away to a Home. They have been living in a cottage by themselves for some time as their mother is dead & father ill in the Workhouse. Their sisters were taken away some time ago.	
13/2/1914	Sent an analysis of the Time Table to the Correspondent in answer to a request for same. I told him that I considered "Physical Exercise" & "Drawing" unnecessary subjects in a rural school.	
16/2/1914	Medical inspection this morning. Mr Chance (N of Eng. School Furnishing Co) came to take measurements for the partition in the main room.	
19/2/1914	<p>Miss Lane leaves tomorrow, & there has been no appointment of her successor. No answers to the advt. have been received, & what we are to do I do not know, for neither of my other teachers has either experience or knowledge of Infant Teaching. The monitor, Gladys Smith, is a good girl, but I cannot expect her to manage from 40 to 50 children.</p> <p>Heard Standards III, IV, V, VI, VII read today, & was much pleased with the general goodness throughout. There are scarcely any children who do not read very creditably & with good expression.</p>	
20/2/1914	Miss Lane leaves today; the teachers and children gave her several very good wedding presents.	
22/2/1914	Miss Cole away ill today, so that, as Miss Gould is taking Infants, as no successor to Miss Lane has been appointed, I am left with Standards I, II, V, VII to myself, so I have sent two of my upper girls to the lower classes & I must confess they managed very well.	
24/2/1914	<p>Miss Lorna Cole came today to help me till the end of the week. Her sister may have the opportunity of resting till Monday, Mr Young [<i>Sytchampton Head</i>] very kindly offering to spare her. I protested against it, as I did not want to get out of a difficulty by robbing him of a teacher, but he protested so much that I had to give in. Wrote to the Director for a Scholarship Entrance Form for Edna Snelling, who wants to be a teacher.</p> <p>Standards I & II have improved very much in their reading. In fact the Reading is good throughout the school. I attribute it, in a great measure, to the number of different books we have, & the great love of reading which characterizes the children.</p>	

6/3/1914	<p>Miss Cole is still away, so that I and my daughter have the whole of the Standard children to manage, with the help of a monitor. Of course, under the circumstances, one cannot expect the work to go on very satisfactorily, but we are doing our best to keep it going though it is impossible to work to the Time Table. Miss L Cole returned to Sytchampton School on Wed^y, as I considered it unfair on Mr Young to keep her longer, & it was better that one school rather than both schools should suffer.</p> <p>Wrote to the Correspondent re the Plots. Have received an offer from Mr Cotterill to superintend the class for 1/6 per Friday afternoon.</p>	
9/3/1914	<p>Miss Cole is still away. I saw her yesterday. She was looking wretchedly ill & certainly not fit for school. I am taking Standards 4, 5, 6, 7 as one class, & my daughter is taking 1, 2, 3. Under the circumstances real work is impossible, & we are only marking time, if soon we are fortunate enough not to be going back. The nurse visited today.</p>	
11/3/1914	<p>I expected Miss Cole today, but she has been to a doctor in Worcester & sends word that he says her <u>throat</u> is in too bad a state for her to come to school this week. Any affection of the throat has not hitherto been mentioned in her indisposition. <u>Our</u> doctor expressed his surprise to me last night that she had not returned to school last week.</p>	
16/3/1914	<p>Miss Ellinor Beatrice Smith (Born 30/10/89) last employed at S. Stephania's[??] (Girls) Worcester as supplementary teacher, came as temporary teacher today, to take Miss Lane's place.</p> <p>Miss Cole returned to school after 3 weeks absence. Sent the necessary form to the Director.</p> <p>The first class in gardening was taken on Friday by Mr Cotterill who has been appointed to help me for the present.</p>	
18/3/1914	<p>Had to punish more than twenty boys who had organised a fight in the field opposite at dinner time.</p>	
20/3/1914	<p>Miss Smith seems to be a capable Infants' Class teacher – the work is going on fairly satisfactorily in the Infants' Room. The three weeks in the Infants' Room has done Miss Gould good. She is improving very much. She is much more capable of taking Infants than Standard children.</p>	
24/3/1914	<p><i>Gives details of Exam results in Reading, Writing & Arithmetic. Totals: Excellent 142; Very good 53; Good 59; Fairly good 18; Poor 10.</i></p>	
6/4/1914	<p>As Friday is Good Friday, the Gardening Class will be held today. Archie Brook was absent from it.</p>	
8/4/1914	<p><i>The Correspondent TE? Amphlett visited and looked at repairs etc needed.</i></p>	

9/4/1914	Closed school this afternoon for the Easter Holidays. I understand that the partition in the Main Room is to be fixed before we re-open on the 20 th .	
20/4/1914	The partition has not been begun yet, & the school is not to be re-opened today as intended. Am to see the Director & ask if we may open on Thursday.	
23/4/1914	Although the work is not quite finished we opened this morning. Sts. I & II are in the Infants' Room.	
27/4/1914	The Screen is finished very satisfactorily & is a great convenience to the teachers and children. Admitted six children today.	
4/5/1914	Miss Gould has given a month's notice to leave having been appointed to a post in Evesham School. A telegram from her this morning says she has missed early train from home & will arrive later. There was a "merit" holiday on Friday.	
5/5/1914	Miss Colbeck of ??? CC Evenwood Co Durham has been appointed Cert. Asst. for the Infants. She was born on March 25 1890. She commences work here on June 1 st , so that Miss Smith will leave then.	
8/5/1914	The weather was so stormy that the boys could have only one hour on the plots. The severe frost of May 1 st has done very much damage.	
14/5/1914	JCR Day Esq HMI spent today here. He was very much dissatisfied with Miss Smith, temporary help, in the Infants' Class.	
18/5/1914	Admitted 3 boys today.	
19/5/1914	Mr Moule complained that his boy had been punished for eating onions in school today. He had told him I had given him 3 stripes for it. I told him I had not the slightest recollection of punishing anyone today, but I would enquire.	
20/5/1914	Investigated above story & found it all a fabrication. The boy was not (nor indeed any boy) punished yesterday at all, he has never been punished for that particular fault, & he acknowledged that I have <u>never</u> given him 3 stripes. The only foundation for the complaint is that his teacher has repeatedly put him by himself for eating onions during playtime & making himself a nuisance to her & the rest of his class. I am sorry to say this is not the first time he has taken a false story home. He is a boy who cannot be believed (except that his father professes entire confidence in his word) & causes all of us much trouble & anxiety. I have sent result of my enquiries to his father. At about 5 o'clock, Mr Moule called on me today to say that he [ILLEGIBLE] boy's story was entirely false, & to apologise for what he had said to me.	

29/5/1914	Miss Gould & Miss Smith both terminate their engagements here today.	
1/6/1914	Bank Holiday	
3/6/1914	Miss Colbeck began work here today. Particulars with regard to her: Name: Gwendoline Margarita Colbeck Birth: 25/3/90 PI at Barnard Castle CS 10/2186 The order in the Infants' Room has become very loose in the last month or so, & Miss Colbeck will have some trouble in restoring it. Have authorised her, in writing, to give slight chastisement if necessary.	
8/6/1914	A great improvement has taken place in the order of the Infants' Room, & it has been done without harsh treatment of the children. I hope the improvement will extend to the attainment as well, for it is greatly needed.	
9/6/1914	We have a case of fever in the school – Mary Wynne. Sent a suspicious case of sore throat (Leslie Biddle) home. Our pump has got out of order, & we can get no water. Sent word to the Correspondent.	
17/6/1914	The pump has been repaired, & we have now a good supply of water.	
22/6/1914	<i>Diocesan Report + Government Report given in full. Gist = satisfactory except for Infants which have been affected by staffing issues & an "unqualified and incompetent" temporary teacher. Fractions and geography a bit dodgy. Children need speech training to be audible, clear and to have continuous narration. Physical deficiencies of the school should soon be remedied. Monitresses good.</i> Names given: WG Page Headmaster Gwendoline Colbeck Certified assistant (Infants) Edith Page Uncertified assistant Lilian Cole Uncertified assistant Ivy Roe Monitress Gladys Smith Monitress	
26/6/1914	Closed school for 3 weeks holiday, to re-open on Monday July 20 th .	

20/7/1914	During the holiday the south wall of the main room has been pierced & a large window, for borrowed light, inserted. A dormer window has been also placed in the SE corner. The two windows have improved the dark end of the room wonderfully. Spouts have also been placed to flush the urinals in times of rain. Amy Chance, a child who has been absent 6 months, died today. Beatrice Rushton who has been away for 5 months with rheumatism came back this morning. Sent a boy (Tom Moule) home, as he had a ring-worm on his face.	
2/7/1914	The Loynes[??] (3) came back after 6 weeks absence owing to Scarlet Fever.	
29/7/1914	Saw Miss Howes, who offers to come as Assistant (Uncert.) for the month of August: for £3/15/-. Sent to tell the Correspondent. Several boys complained of for going into Mr Stanton's orchard & taking fruit. Asked the Police Sergt. to come up & warn them. Applied for an increase of salary for Gladys Smith & Ivy Rea, the two monitresses.	
31/7/1914	Miss F Howes, student in Tr. Coll. has been appointed temporary Asst. for the month of August. Florence Howes. Born 21/11/93.	
2/8/1914	Bank Holiday	
3/8/1914	Miss Colbeck absent today by permission of the Managers. Miss F Howes came today.	
12/8/1914	Muriel Bradley has developed scarlet fever & has been removed to an Isolation Hospital. Her sister Celia[??] is also, of course, away from School.	
17/8/1914	The two other Bradley children have taken the fever & have been removed also. I believe they have diphtheria too. Received notice from LEA that it is suggested that the girls should make shirts & socks for the soldiers & sailors, & that the material may be bought with School funds. Miss Page, therefore, proposes to make 12 shirts, & I have taken steps to get the material.	
24/8/1914	8 or 9 shirts have been cut out, & the girls began work on them today.	
25/8/1914	Mrs Abrey (formerly Miss Page, supplementary) whose husband is on active service, appointed temporary teacher here from Sep. 1.	

28/8/1914	Have spent as much time as possible this week in finding out how St. I children are going on. I find they are getting on very well with reading but that their teacher is very hardly pressed in knowing how to keep both Standards going. Ivy Rea is a great help in "looking after" a class, but is not very "inventive" as a teacher. Miss Howes, who has been here this month, has kept St V in order, but she is rather too fond of sending children out for punishment, & I am afraid she has not won their confidence & affection. She evidently has the idea that severity is the best, & only, method with her pupils, & she has little tact in dealing with them.	
31/8/1914	Miss Howes ended her month's work here Aug 3-31.	
1/9/1914	Mrs Abrey (formerly S. Teacher here as Miss GM Page) began work here as Sup. Teacher, during her husband's absence on active service. Sent notice concerning her & Miss Howes to the Director. Re-admitted Harry Mason, & admitted a girl who has come for a fortnight's visit to Ombersley.	
7/9/1914	Forwarded 12 shirts, made at school, to Major Reddie Worcester, for use of our troops. Sent notice that this had been done to Droitwich. Tom Moule returned to school.	
14/9/1914	Received notice from the Correspondent that Miss Ada Wright has been appointed Assistant in the school from Oct. 2 nd .	
21/9/1914	Miss Colbeck is away today with a very bad cold. Notified absence to the Director.	
23/9/1914	She is here today but ought not to be. I have had a fire put in her room.	
24/9/1914	As expected, she is away again.	
28/9/1914	Miss Colbeck has returned to work. Sent the requisite notice to the Director. Miss Wright is <u>not</u> coming here. She evidently does not feel herself confident to undertake the work of Standard V.	
2/10/1914	Closed school for 3 weeks – till Oct 26.	
26/10/1914	Re-opened. Admitted 9 children. The CC Nurse visited the school in the afternoon. 173 children present of whom 2 were found not quite clean in the head, one of them being a newly admitted girl.	
2/11/1914	Admitted 3 children to the Infant Division.	
3/11/1914	Had to punish 6 Hadley boys for leaving school yesterday afternoon without permission, after play-time. They were:- Archie Brooks, Arthur Brooks, Walter Lewis, William Wheatley, Denis Phillips, Tom Moule. They are all of them most troublesome boys, & most of them are upheld in their bad behaviour by their parents, especially Lewis & Moule.	

17/11/1914	Medical inspection both morning & afternoon. Dorothy Wood was examined, her mother accompanying her. On her being spoken to by Dr Mary Williams about the state of the girl's head, the woman became rather abusive & ultimately accused Miss Cole of having assaulted her boy Turpin on the previous day & making a large bruise on his hand. Miss Cole having denied it, the boy was sent for, & Dr Williams could find not the slightest sign of bruise or hurt. She therefore wrote a statement of the complaint for reference & told Mrs Wood there not the least foundation for the boy's story.	
18/11/1914	Yesterday some knitting was missing & after all the girls had denied knowledge of it, it was found concealed under the pinafore of one of them, a lately admitted girl, who was put to sit by herself as a punishment, this being the extent of the notice taken. This morning I received a most insulting[??] letter, concerning the teacher from the mother, who said her girl was ill with the "severe beating on the head" she had received at school. Inquired of every child who was present, & found that nothing in the way of punishment had been given, except as stated above. I went to the father but received nothing but abuse, though I pointed out to him that his wife's written statement, false as it was, was a very serious matter. Really nowadays injudicious parents [ILLEGIBLE BECAUSE OF FADING. <i>Seems to say something like . . . 'make a teacher's life hardly worth living.'</i>]	
24/11/1914	The attendance is poor this afternoon in consequence of a "route march" of soldiers through the village during the dinner hour. Many of the children naturally following them, some of them going to Hawford & some as far as Worcester & of course were absent at the afternoon session. About 1500 or 1600 soldiers marched through with their band.	
15/12/1914	Made out attendance for Beatrice Rushton for Labour Certificate.	
21/12/1914	Read Sir John French's address to the Worcestershire Reg ^t to the children & had a talk with them about it.	
24/12/1914	Broke up at noon for Xmas Holidays till Jan ^y 11 th .	
11/1/1915	Resumed work. Several children have left during the holidays:- Walter Lewis, Letitia Hencher, Arnie[??] Pitman, Lillian Smith, Annie & Mollie Mitchell.	
15/1/1915	Gave Standard V a set of sums to do this morning. Their work is by no means satisfactory, & I cannot expect it to be till there is a competent teacher appointed. It has been without this for more than a year now & there seems no prospect of a change for the better.	
24/1/1915	We are nearly out of coal, & the Company have written to say how difficult it is to supply it. We have been very sparing with it, & the temperature has been much too low in school, averaging below 50%. [<i>I think this is what it says, but don't know what it means</i>]	

25/1/1915	A load of coal came today (1 ton, 4 cwt).	
26/1/1915	The temperature this morning (9.30) is 42. At 10.30 it had risen to 46 & at 11.30 it was 47. There has been an incessant procession to the fire all morning.	
5/2/1915	Have spent some time this week with the Infants & have to note the marvellous progress the first class are making in Reading & Writing. Standards 1 & 2 also are getting on but there are several children in 1 who are mentally deficient.	
9/2/1915	The Attendance Officer informs me that any boy may be kept from school for Agricultural work by any farmer who sends notice of his intention to the school, the Dist. Ed. Comm. having decided to suspend their rule for the time being on account of the scarcity of labouring men through the War. Wrote to the Correspondent about it.	
17/1/1915	A letter from the Correspondent tells me to report all cases of absentees employed, & says the Sch. Att. Officer is wrong in his contestation that any boy may be employed simply by the employer getting permission from the Dist. Mr Taylor, however, insists he is right.	
17/2/1915	Sent Garden requisition to Correspondent:- 3 loads manure at cost of £1 2 bundles of bean sticks at cost of 2/- 2 bundles of pea sticks at cost of 1/6 A load of coal came today. Answered Correspondent's letter re Agr. Employment of children, after seeing Mr Taylor, Sch. Att. Officer.	
20/2/1915	Received instructions from Droitwich re Employment of children in agriculture. Employers are to apply to Head teacher who gives permission to employ boys & reports cases to Dist. Committee.	
23/2/1915	Manure delivered from Mr Beck's farm.	
26/2/1915	Three boys – Arthur Brooks, Irvine Moule & Jack Perkins are away under the instructions noted above (Feb 20). Each case has been notified to the Committee.	
1/3/1915	W Wheatley & R Taylor are now added to the above list.	
10/3/1915	There is a great deal of illness in the school at present. Out of 190 children we have only 155 present.	
12/3/1915	5 boys are absent at Agricultural work.	

16/3/1915	Between the employment of boys (5 are so employed) & illness our attendance is very bad, especially among the Infants where there are 17 absent. In the mixed department 14 are away. The illness is mainly influenza but one Infant has developed pneumonia. It is hardly to be wondered at with the variable temperature we have had lately – 40° to 28°. Allowed 1 st Class boys to go into their plots the last hour of the afternoon.	
17/3/1915	Two other boys – Arthur Butler & Charley Knight applied for by farmers. Sent the applications to Mr Bearcroft.	
18/3/1915	Permission for Knight came this morning. First class boys went out again for an hour this afternoon into the school gardens.	
19/3/1915	The storm last night wrecked the CC tool shed, taking the roof off & smashing the window, so had to send for workmen to put things right. Wrote to the Correspondent to explain why it was done without waiting for the order.	
26/3/1915	Have been examining the children this week in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic & in some classes, other subjects. The results, which are satisfactory, will be found in the Teachers' Record Books.	
30/3/1915	The CC Nurse visited this morning and examined all the children (165). There were no cases of unclean heads & no cards issued. Gladys Smith (Mon.) has been absent (Influenza) since Mar. 22.	
1/4/1915	Closed at noon for Easter Holiday – a week.	
12/4/1915	Resumed school. One of our Infants – Cecil Griffiths – was killed last Monday by a Motor Car in the village street. The accident was quite unavoidable. The child was a mere baby of 3½ years. Gladys Smith is back.	
20/4/1915	Sent out notices for Med. Inspection on Apr 23. An attack of measles seems imminent. Many children at the north end of the Parish are affected.	
23/4/1915	Medical Inspection, morning & afternoon. 5 children – Leonard Williams (chickenpox), Jessie Atkins (Pul. Tuber.) & Alice, Fanny[??] & Emily Wheatley (Scabies). Dr Mary Williams was the Inspector. I am afraid we are going to have a "measles" visitation.	
3/5/1915	Left school at 11.30 to go to Worcester for the Teachers' month's salaries. Ivy Rea, being desirous of attending a Red Cross class which is held on Mondays at 3pm, is allowed to leave at 2.50 to enable her to do so.	
4/5/1915	We begin afternoon school from now at 1.45.	
6/5/1915	We have only 148 children present this morning, so that there are 38 absentees or 20%. There are several cases of chickenpox, & a few of measles.	

7/5/1915	The percentage attendance this week is but 83%, chickenpox being mainly responsible for the large number of absentees.	
11/5/1915	J Perkins is back at school this week. See Feb ^y 26 entry.	
12/5/1915	The attendance keeps poor, cases of illness cropping up at short intervals. Measles does not [ILLEGIBLE], but cases far away from each other happen. Chickenpox is more prevalent.	
13/5/1915	Wretchedly wet & cold morning. Thermometers in school register 45°, 46° & 47°. Had all the fires lit. Only 109 present (out of 186).	
14/5/1915	<p>A bright sunny morning & pleasant in school. Yet I find, to my great surprise, the thermometer registering but 45° at 9.30 & 47° and 10.00. No fires.</p> <p>Having received another circular from the Director urging the strictest Economy in school materials, I have sent for nothing but a few exercise books, & a copy of the [BOOK TITLE ILLEGIBLE]</p> <p>Our attendance is very poor. The heavy rain kept 76 away in the morning & nearly that number in the afternoon. What with that & illness, we do not reach 80% this week. Made out, by the desire of the Director, the list of the old boys of the school who have joined the colours & sent it to him. The list contains 95 names.</p>	
17/5/1915	Very poor attendance – 142 out of 184 this afternoon.	
20/5/1915	Ivy Rea was 16 years old this week, & I shall have to put insurance stamps on a card for her, commencing next Monday.	
21/5/1915	<p>Mr AH Moule, May House Farm, has applied for permission to employ Sidney Leak[??] of Hadley, aged 13, in Agricultural work at 6/- per week wages. Sent the application to Mr Bearcroft, Clerk to the District Council.</p> <p>As it seems probable, the Bd. of Education objecting to Mrs Abrey as an Asst to St. V, that I shall be left with V, VI & VII on my hands, I have spent a good deal of time in the other part of the school, while I have had the opportunity. I am glad to say that I find the work going on well in each class & that the Infants are progressing admirably. The presence of Mrs Abrey has enabled me to supervise the various teachers, but if she goes & no other is appointed (& Assistants seem to object to the upper Standards work) I do not see how I shall be able to spend a few minutes, even, away from the first class. It is fortunate that all my teachers are so thoroughly trustworthy, & enthusiastic in their work. How the gardening will go on I cannot imagine, for it will be impossible to get outside help, for labour is exceedingly scarce. In fact every boy in the school who is capable of doing any work at all, could obtain employment.</p>	
24/5/1915	Whitmonday Holiday.	
25/5/1915	Another case of measles, & one of chickenpox has occurred since Friday.	

26/5/1915	Fearfully hot in school this afternoon. The thermometer registers 74°.	
27/5/1915	A difference of 17° in the temperature this morning. We are beginning school this afternoon at 1 o'clock, on account of a tea being given to soldiers who are quartered in the village. Have apprised the Correspondent of the change in the time of opening and closing.	
3/6/1915	Left school at 10.30 this morning to go to Worcester by the motor bus, for the Teachers' salaries. Was back at 11.30, & found the work I had set the upper Standards to do, very well done.	
7/6/1915	Was in the Infants' Room for twenty minutes with the Vicar, hearing the children read. He was amazed at their proficiency. Later I heard Miss Cole give St. 1 & 2 a lesson in Geography (Worcestershire).	
9/6/1915	Garden report:- Great interest is taken in the garden. Fruit & flowers receive special attention as well as the usual vegetable crops. The trees are well managed, the flowers are carefully chosen & cultivated, & vegetables were numerous in kind & very good in quality. The plots were also very clean. There are 12 plots & 14 boys. In addition 8 girls & 16 Infants receive instruction. Other plots are 1 fruit, 1 flower, 1 seed, & one general plot.	
10/6/1915	<p>I heard the whole of the children in the school read one day last week & gave each teacher a summary of the result, which was a very satisfactory one. The Infants are remarkably good. In St I there are 19 very good readers, 6 fair & 6 (new ones) bad.</p> <p>Standard II 20 all very good</p> <p>Standard III 9 very good, 4 good, 2 fairly good</p> <p>Standard IV 28 very good</p> <p>Standard V 16 very good, 1 good</p> <p>Standard VI 7 very good</p> <p>Standard VII 2 very good</p> <p>Mr Amphlett yesterday heard reading in the Infants & Standards, & expressed himself as being very pleased with them. He thought the Reading throughout very good indeed & most intelligent.</p>	

14/6/1915	<p>Have had much trouble lately about the disappearance of pencils & other little things from school & managed to trace them today to two little girls in Standards 1 & 2. Sent for their mothers, who promised to punish them severely. I am sure one of the parents will do so, but I am very doubtful about the other, for I have had the same sort of experience with her before, regarding an older girls. We have good attendance today but isolated cases of measles & chickenpox keep cropping up.</p> <p>The School clocks are both stopped. Wrote to the Correspondent to ask if I might send them to Worcester for cleaning & repair. They have been here 39 years, & have only had local treatment all the time.</p>	
16/6/1915	<p>With permission of Correspondent have today sent both clocks to Thornton Worcester for repair.</p> <p>Tom Moule away this week up to now. He is reported poorly, but he stops away for very little cause. He very seldom attends a full week.</p> <p>The recent 3 weeks of hot weather with no rain have been bad for the boys' plots. Nothing grows in any form, & planting out is impossible. The only crop that is growing profusely is that of weeds, & they seem to flourish in any weather.</p>	
18/6/1915	<p>Waterloo Day. Did not put up the flag & explained to the children the reason.</p> <p>We have had no rain now for 4 weeks, & it is useless to think of going out on the plots, as no work could be done on them. This is the third Friday in succession that we have missed, though we were on them on Monday June 6th, as we had plants to put in, & the boys carried water for the purpose.</p> <p>The following old boys of the school have joined His Majesty's Forces, & are serving in the War:-</p> <p><i>[See Excel Spreadsheet]</i></p> <p>The above list contains the names of 108 boys, all of whom have attended the school during my time here. There may be others, of a former date, whom I have not traced. Our Parish has done very well to aid the Country, nearly 200 young men having joined the Colours. It has made it bad for Agriculture & has rendered really necessary the relaxation of the Attendance Rules & I am rather surprised that I have but 8 boys taken away from school.</p>	
21/6/1915	<p><i>[Long difficult-to-read entry about decision taken at the Managers' Meeting to close the school for 3 weeks on Friday]</i></p> <p>This afternoon the boys spent the time in their plots tidying them up before the holidays.</p>	
23/6/1915	<p>Received a letter from Mr Udale today that he was coming over to the plots tomorrow if possible, as he wanted to see them in working order before the holidays commenced.</p>	

23/6/1915	Prince of Wales' Birthday. Flag was hoisted. Mr Udale came & was very pleased with the neatness & appearance of the plots & complimented the boys on their work & attention.	
25/6/1915	Received notice from Droitwich Union that Albert Pickerill, Leslie Biddle & Dorothy Wood were now exempt from School, as they had received Certificates for Employment. May Wilson is also excused for this week. Broke up for 3 weeks. School is to re-commence on July 19 th . Received the clocks back from Worcester yesterday. They have been thoroughly overhauled & cleaned. The bill for them is 12/-.	
19/7/1915	Re-opened school with a good attendance. Three of my first class has left, & another one is applied for to be employed in Agriculture. There are now but seven girls & no boys in the 1 st class. The school floors have been thoroughly washed during the holiday, & the walls limed. The latter badly wanted colouring afresh. The plots need attention after 3 weeks of neglect, though they are not in very bad order.	
23/7/1915	<i>[Report of examination of each teacher and class which I haven't transcribed. The teachers are: Miss Cole Standards I & II Miss Colbeck Infants Miss Page Standards III & IV Mr Page & Mrs Abrey Standards V, VI VII]</i>	
29/7/1915	Wrote for 5 or 6 tons of coal to be delivered before Sep 1 st as the contract price is to be advanced on that date.	
3/8/1915	As is usual after Bank Holiday, the attendance is anything but good.	
11/8/1915	The Vicar visited the School today. The attendance is good, but the absence of ten "Agricultural Workers" prevents a high percentage.	
20/8/1915	Wrote to ask if the boys away on Agr. Work might be temporarily removed from the Register.	
23/8/1915	Received answer to above – <u>NO</u> .	
30/8/1915	I omitted to note that I opened a Savings Bank in conjunction with the Post Office on Aug. 9 th . Up to today 33 children have joined it, & yesterday v. pleased £2 in the Post Office Bank.	
6/9/1915	Dr. Hughes Manager died yesterday.	
14/9/1915	Another of my old boys – J Blunt – has been killed in the Dardanelles, making the 4 th to fall in the war. The others are Albert Miles, Alfred Smith and Albert Hill. Wm. Wheatley and Ernest Hill	

	are both very dangerously wounded.	
25/9/1915	At the Managers' Meeting it was decided to close school for the potato harvest from Oct. 1 st to Oct. 25 th .	
1/10/1915	Closed till 25 th .	
25/10/1915	Re-opened. Good attendance. We are very short of materials, for Arnold's parcels have not come. So we shall not be able to adhere strictly to the timetable.	
30/10/1915	The parcels arrived today.	
5/11/1915	I regret to say that Miss Cole has told me that she thinks of leaving us at Christmas. She will be a difficult teacher to replace, & I shall feel her loss greatly.	
12/11/1915	Miss Cole went today to interview managers at a school in London.	
18/11/1915	A boy named Ernest Clarke who, I think, is not responsible for his action, seriously injured Fred Stiles in the playground today by kicking him in the face, when he was stooping down. The boy Clarke is not fit to be among other children. He is peevish & impish. [<i>Not quite sure of impish.</i>]	
26/11/1915	Fred Stiles has been away ill all the week from the injury. I have been to see him & am glad that there will be no permanent effect from the kick. The Vicar visited on Wed ^y . Bitterly cold.	
29/11/1915	Miss Cole has given notice to leave at Christmas.	
3/12/1915	It has been very cold in school this week again – much too cold for the children to work in.	
10/12/1915	Rather warmer part of the week, but the temperature of the rooms are low.	
13/12/1915	Temperature only 40° at opening of school.	
23/12/1915	Miss Cole left. Broke up till Jan. 10 th .	
28/12/1915	Miss Page, Assistant, married Sergeant W Burgess, Somers[??] Fusiliers. He came from France for the ceremony and returns there on Sat ^y . She will continue her work in school.	
10/1/1916	Re-opened school, Mrs Abrey taking St. i, ii, Mrs Burgess (Miss Page) iii, iv, and the other standards, as one class, by myself.	
12/1/1916	Mrs Stanton, a former teacher here, comes on Monday, as temporary teacher (Jan ^y 17).	
21/1/1916	Have spent a great part of the week with St. i, ii to put Mrs Stanton in the way of the work, as it has changed so much in method since she was here as a teacher. She seems to be getting on very well in adapting herself to the change. Louisa Preece and Doris Hayes left today. Mrs Stanton began teaching on the 17 th .	

24/1/1916	The coughing in school is most distressing & the attendance has declined since the beginning of the week.																																											
31/1/1916	The temperature is 15° lower than on Friday. More children are away with bad coughs. Our coal supply ran out on Friday. Wrote on Thursday for some, but no reply has yet been received. I borrowed a barrowful from the Vicar to carry on today.																																											
1/2/1916	We have 40 children absent out of 191 on the books. All but two are ill. Sent requisition list to the Correspondent for signature and transmission to Arnold's. A load of coal was brought today.																																											
4/2/1916	Out of 50 Infants, 33 are away today, & of 141 Standard children 97 are present so that there are 77 children absent. The illness seems to be a very contagious form of influenza. 46% of the scholars are ill.																																											
8/2/1916	<p>Sent return to Director of Children on Register on Jan. 31st as follows:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="371 864 1066 1832"> <thead> <tr> <th>Between</th> <th>Boys</th> <th>Girls</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3 & 4</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 & 5</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 & 6</td> <td>11</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 & 7</td> <td>12</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 & 8</td> <td>15</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 & 9</td> <td>15</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 & 10</td> <td>18</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 & 11</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 & 12</td> <td>14</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 & 13</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 & 14</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>111</td> <td>79</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="2">190</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Between	Boys	Girls	3 & 4	1	1	4 & 5	2	6	5 & 6	11	7	6 & 7	12	9	7 & 8	15	9	8 & 9	15	6	9 & 10	18	9	10 & 11	9	4	11 & 12	14	11	12 & 13	10	11	13 & 14	4	4		111	79		190		
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9/2/1916	Heard Mrs Stanton give Sts. i & ii a History lesson on Sir Walter Raleigh. She gave it in a very interesting manner, & on questioning the children, I found they had retained the information very well indeed.																																											
11/2/1916	Gardening Report:-																																											

	<p>"Gardening is much appreciated by the pupils attending these schools & is taken up by girls and infants as well as boys. The girls and infants take charge of the flowers, which are most creditable to them, & the boys attend mainly to fruit and vegetables which testify to their care, thoughtfulness & industry. The whole garden illustrates how much benefit in the present & the future may be derived from the painstaking & intelligent guidance and leading of a teacher whose whole heart is in his work. There are 14 boys, 8 girls & 32 infants taking part in the working of the garden which consists of 12 plots for boys, 2 flower & 1 fruit plot. All plots clean."</p>																
15/2/1916	A heavy fall of snow in the night has reduced the attendance, which had greatly improved yesterday. There are only 12 Infants present and 110 Standard children.																
16/2/1916	Received Circular authorising me, on application from an employer in agriculture, to allow a child of 11 years of age & upwards to be absent from school to be employed on the land for short periods, not exceeding a monthly average of 6 half-days per week. Made out 2 copies of such children's names & sent one to the Correspondent.																
<i>Rest of February</i>	<i>More on snow and attendance</i>																
9&10/3/1916	<p>Have heard all the Standard children read these two days. The results were:-</p> <p>First class (9) all very good indeed</p> <p>Second class (24) One only (Tom Moule) lower than very good</p> <p>Third class (13) All but one very satisfactory</p> <p>Fourth class (28) A very good class indeed</p> <p>Fifth class (21) Only one who is not a good reader</p> <p>Sixth class (25) 16 very good readers, 3 good ones & 6 indifferent or bad. Two of these are semi-imbecile</p>																
10/3/1916	An aeroplane passed over the school this morning. Allowed all the children to go out into the playground to watch it till it disappeared Kidderminster way. Made it the subject of composition afterwards.																
17/3/1916	<p>The following children have obtained permission to work for the periods stated, from March 15, from the District Education Committee:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="371 1742 1066 2087"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Dob</th> <th>Period</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fred Styles</td> <td>20/9/03</td> <td>3 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Winnie Rhodes [???</td> <td>7/10/02</td> <td>4 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fred Adams</td> <td>29/8/03</td> <td>6 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jack Hayes</td> <td>6/11/03</td> <td>6 months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Dob	Period	Fred Styles	20/9/03	3 months	Winnie Rhodes [???	7/10/02	4 months	Fred Adams	29/8/03	6 months	Jack Hayes	6/11/03	6 months	
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Fred Adams	29/8/03	6 months															
Jack Hayes	6/11/03	6 months															

	Chris Dyson	29/8/03	3 months	
14/4/1916	Sent return concerning boys allowed to be absent for agricultural work to the Director.			
20/4/1916	Closed for Easter week.			
1/5/1916	Re-opened. Lt. Aubrey Webster, son of the Vicar, was accidentally killed in France on Apr. 25 by the bursting of a bomb. He is the 14 th Ombersley man to lose his life through the war.			
4-9 May 1916	<i>Cold and wet. Poor attendance.</i>			
19/5/1916	Five boys left the playground during recreation & were not present at the ringing of the bell. Went to search for them, found them bathing & brought them back. Punished them by giving them no play & an hour's detention for a week.			
24/5/1916	Empire Day. Lessons suitable for the day, singing national[??] songs. Assembled round the Flag, saluted it & sang "God Save the King". Half holiday in afternoon.			
7/6/1916	The uncertainty of the boys' attendance in the first class owing to the "Working" regulation has a rather bad effect on the work in School, & also in the garden plot.			
17/6/1916	Managers' meeting. It was decided to close on the 30 th for 3 weeks.			
23/6/1916	Attendance gradually diminishing.			
29/6/1916	Only 99 present this afternoon.			
24/7/1916	Re-opened school. Boys on plots in the afternoon.			
1/8/1916	Removed Ivy Rea, monitress from St. iii, to help Mrs Stanton with i & ii.			
18/8/1916	The new work is not going on very well, on account of the irregularity in the upper Standards in consequence of the ease with which any child of 11 or 12 can get permission to stay away 3/5 of the school time for work. It affects St. v even more than vi & vii. Fifteen of the old pupils have given their lives in the war up to the present time, as certainly known.			
30/10/1916	The holidays are extended to Nov. 6. We have received official information that our son Wilfred was killed in action on Sep. 15 & also that my younger daughter's husband met a like fate on Oct. 12. Percy Biddle & Neddy Skerrett, old boys, have also lost their lives. There are now 25 names on my Death Roll of Honour. 174 of my boys are serving, or have served, their country in this war.			
16/11/1916	My daughter, Mrs Burgess, has given notice of her intention to give up teaching at Xmas, in consequence of her recent loss. She is thinking of devoting herself to nursing, & will probably go to			

	B'ham Hospital.	
21/11/1916	24% of our children are away from illness. Whooping cough, very bad colds etc. & others, especially in the Infants' Room, are evidently failing.	
29/11/1916	The irregular attendance, owing to the facilities allowed for absenting themselves for working is paralysing the children's progress in St. v to vii; it shows mainly in arithmetic but every branch of the work is backward, & it makes one very despairing.	
15/12/1916	It has not been fit for the children to be in school all this week. The lowest register by the thermometer has been 38° & the highest 49°. There is much sickness. Have not been able to complete Exam. on account of the small attendance, for which snow, illness and employment are responsible.	
16/12/1916	No application having been received for the vacancy caused by Mrs Burgess' resignation, she has consented to stay a month longer.	
January 1917	<i>Very cold weather and poor attendance & lot of illness.</i>	
19/1/1917	It has been very cold all week, the highest temperature in school being 47°. We have had very little coal & consequently have to be very careful. We have none whatever now, & I have again written for some to be sent.	
22/1/1917	Borrowed enough coal to light the fires. None has been sent yet. Temperature in the 3 rooms at 9.30 34°, 35°, 35°. It is impossible for the children to work. Indeed I can hardly hold the pen. [Handwriting evidence]	
25/1/1917	<i>More on the cold</i>	
5/2/1917	Having no coal, & the cold being intense, the Correspondent Manager instructed me to send the children home for the day. Went to the Coal Co. in Worcester & a load was sent this afternoon.	
8/2/1917	The weather is bitter. Our highest temperatures recorded this week are as follows:- Large room 36°, classroom 38°, Infants Room 35°. Under the circumstances it has been impossible to do ordinary lessons, the teachers having been occupied in trying to keep the children warm, or rather less cold, round the fires & in manual exercises.	
16/2/1917	It has been much less cold this week, the thermometer rising sometimes as high as 50°. But there is much illness among the children & the attendance is not good. A War Savings Association has been opened for the village.	
23/2/1917	The first week of the War Savings Association has yielded £40.19.0. The payment night is Saturday in each week, in the Old School House in the Village. I am Sec ^y . & Miss Amphlett Treasurer.	

March 1917	<i>Weather still cold. Poor attendance. Illness.</i>	
4/4/1917	An aeroplane came down in the dinner hour, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the school, to the great detriment of an afternoon attendance when only 79 Standard children were present.	
5/4/1917	Closed school till Apr. 16 th for the Easter Holiday. Gardening Report : J Udale The boys' plots were remarkably clean, admirably cropped & very orderly, the crops numerous & very good, as well as planted in good order of rotation. The girls cultivate one general plot which is, with all the crops thereon, in excellent condition in all respects. The Infants cultivate 4 flower beds, forming a small flower garden which was, on the whole, an object of great beauty. There were 14 boys, 6 girls, 20 infants, 12 plots, 3 general plots, one fruit and one seed plot.	
16/4/1917	Re-opened School. Attendance in upper Standards very poor. All the boys in v, vi vii except 5 are away working, and 2 of these 5 work 3 days a week.	
27/4/1917	We have no writing books for upper Standard work & cannot send for any till we hear from the Ed. Com. from whom they have to be ordered, Arnold's contract having terminated. My gardening class consists of <u>3</u> boys & <u>11</u> girls, boys not being available.	
30/4/1917	Wrote to the Director to ask if Arnold's contract is renewed, as we are short of Exercise Books. I borrowed a dozen from W. Young on Friday.	
2/5/1917	Received a Circular from Lady Sandys to the effect that there is a lecture at the Court <u>this afternoon</u> at 2.30, on War Time Cookery by the Hon. Mrs Henry Scott. As I think it most important at this time that all my teachers should attend such a meeting, I am opening school at 1 o'clock so that I can manage to let them go.	
17/5/1917	All the children attended service in the Church at 9am. They were all in their places at school before the time for the closing of the registers.	
24/5/1917	Empire Day. National Anthem sung. Talk about the Empire, & our duty to it. Play-time slightly extended, both morning and afternoon. Gave out copies of the King's Proclamation with "slip" attached for willing parents to sign affirming that they will live within the amount of "Rations" suggested by Lord Davenport. I am glad to note that I have not seen even a small piece of bread in waste for nearly 3 weeks; the teachers have been instructed to frequently remind the children against waste and over-eating.	
30/5/1917	Gardening this afternoon. Seeds have come up very badly, & the "plot" outlook is not very satisfactory. The dwarf & runner beans are quite a failure. 18/- sent from the children as Empire Day gift to the Over-Seas Club.	

6/6/1917	We have several cases of chickenpox & the attendance is poor in consequence of it.	
7/6/1917	Mr Pedley, Chairman of the Congleton Ed. Com., called at the school today. He is staying in Droitwich for the Baths. He was very pleased with his visit.	
14/6/1917	The remaining 3 boys in the first class have now been requisitioned for work – 3/5 of the school term – by Dewhurst, Lord Sandys Agent. [<i>Other sources spell him as Jewhurst</i>]	
19/6/1917	<p>This morning I have but 9 children (all girls) present in the first class. Labour is in such demand now, that the services of even small boys are valuable, & sought for eagerly. There are not many peas about this year – I think it would have been advisable to break up now when the children would have been useful in gooseberry, strawberry & cherry picking.</p> <p>I wrote to the Correspondent today offering to stay on for a period of 6 months from next March, providing that I could be relieved of the tenancy of the School House.</p> <p>There was a dreadful thunder, hail and rain storm on Sunday which did much damage to the children's plots – entirely ruining some of the crops. Some of the hailstones were jagged pieces of ice, nearly a square inch in size & half an inch thick. The whole of the playground & garden were under water & the gravel of the playground was swept away. The storm lasted, with torrents of rain, from 6.20 to 7.30pm.</p>	
22/6/1917	The attendance is getting very low as pea-picking has begun & many children are amongst the gooseberries & many have chickenpox, which has broken out intermittently during the last 6 or 8 weeks. 32 are away today in the mixed dept. out of 121 and 12 out of 58 infants. The request for children's employment is very great. In fact, out of St. iii, iv, v, vi, vii, 19 are being employed, some whole and some 3/5 of the school time. This makes the work very difficult & unsatisfactory.	
29/6/1917	Closed School for 3 week – till July 23 rd . The attendance today is wretched, both mixed and infant classes.	
23/7/1917	Re-commenced School with rather better attendance. Was obliged to have 2 "plot" sessions, on account of 3 week's accumulation of weeds.	
17/8/1917	Am very much troubled with deafness, which seems to increase rapidly.	
20/8/1917	Sent [??] Bush home on account of breakings out on face and head.	
27/8/1917	Sent 5 more – Adelaide Bush, R Cupper, H?? Moss & P & R Colley – for the same reason. We have been greatly troubled with this complaint for some time, & I begin to think that the bread we get now must be the cause of it.	

7/9/1917	Several of the children are staying away with same & none of those sent back on Aug. 27 th have returned as yet.	
13/9/1917	The attendance is poor, so many children being kept away for fruit picking, & the "sores" being still very prevalent. Sent an order to Arnold's on Monday.	
14/9/1917	Medical Inspection fixed for morning of next Tuesday. Sent out 14 notices to parents for it.	
17/9/1917	Miss Colbeck away with a cold.	
18/9/1917	Medical inspection. Sixteen children were examined. Dr Mary Williams was much concerned at the "breakings out" noted above, & was of opinion that it would be advisable to close the school at once instead of waiting till the normal time of breaking up for the potato harvest.	
21/9/1917	School closed on medical authority. Do not know at present for what length of time.	
5/11/1917	Re-opened school after 6 weeks' closing.	
6/11/1917	The year's work will have to be begun again. The 6 weeks' closing has quite lost all the good done in the first 2 months of the year. Sent Gardening Claim for grant of £1, sales from plots, to the Director.	
8/11/1917	The attendance is better now than it has been for more than a year, for we have nearly 170 in attendance out of 182. There are still some cases of illness – 2 of jaundice.	
9/11/1917	Have felt compelled, through increasing deafness, to inform the Managers that I must give up charge of the School when my term of service expires on Feb. 8 th 1918.	
14/11/1917	Mrs Burgess is very poorly. I tried to persuade her to stay from school, but could not.	
15/11/1917	Sent balance of Garden Sales – 14/6 less 2/8 carriage to Mr Priestley with details of sales.	
16/11/1917	Reported 3 cases of jaundice to Dr Frosbrooke?? & Dr Williams & Correspondent.	
26/11/1917	The Inspector – JW Matthews Esq – spent the whole day in school.	
27/11/1917	The County Council Nurse spent the morning here & excluded Hilda Brookes, Fanny & Emily Wheatley – old offenders.	
20/11/1917	There is a meeting of the Managers tomorrow to consider the question of my successor. I trust that it will be settled that I can go at the end of Jan ^y . for my deafness is a terrible handicap in doing the work of the school. Mrs Burgess has given notice to leave at the end of December. She	

	has been very unsettled ever since her husband was killed a year ago, & has only stayed as long on my account.	
7/12/1917	Nothing of importance has taken place the last week. The attendance has been very irregular, but better than we have had latterly.	
11/12/1917	Received a letter from Mr Amphlett to say that a meeting of managers will be held here at 3.30 next Monday, to meet applicants for the position of Head Master.	
14/12/1917	The C.C. Nurse called yesterday and again excluded Hilda Brookes, Fanny & Emily Wheatley.	
21/12/1917	Closed school for a fortnight. Mrs Burgess left today. The girls of the school presented her with a handsome brooch as a parting gift.	
7/1/1918	Re-opened school. At a meeting of the Managers, held during the holidays, Mr TE Styles, at present in charge of Fernhill Heath School, was appointed Master of the School, his duties to commence after my retirement, Feb. 1 st .	
16, 17, 18/1 / 1918	A very heavy fall of snow. Not a child came to school either day. Roads were impassable.	
31/1/1918	<p>After nearly 37 years' work here, I have come to my last day in school.</p> <p>The last year has been full of difficulty for me: 1st the poor attendance & irregularity of the upper standards owing to agricultural needs; 2nd the closing of the school for 6 weeks when we had just begun to get into the new year's work; 3rd the loss of the teacher of Sts. iii-iv, but above all the increasing deafness which, for a long time, has made me really unfit for any work. But for that, I should have been glad to ask for the extension of my Certificate, but I felt that, had I done so, I should be remaining under false pretences.</p> <p>Still I resign my school with very great regret, the more so as I feel that, under other conditions, I could have handed it over to my successor in a better state. I trust he may be as happy here as I have been. I take this last opportunity of testifying my gratitude to my managers and to HM Inspector, for their invaluable kindness to me during my long service. Looking back, I can see that perhaps I might have done more, but it has ever been my aim to make any dear boys & girls God fearing children & worthy citizens of our grand Empire & I trust that I may have, in some measure, succeeded in this. Nearly 200 of my boys are now fighting for their country & 25 of them – one of my own among them – have given their lives for her.</p> <p>I am glad to know that, in Mr Stiles [sic], I have a very worthy successor, & I beg him to love my boys & girls for my sake, as he will soon do, I hope, for his own. May God be with him, & them.</p> <p>W.J. Page 1881-1918</p>	

<p>1/2/1918</p>	<p>Today I take over the entire charge of the school. I trust that my period of service here – be it long or short – may be of real service in the great cause of Education, and that the children passing through my hands may prove to be good Christians and worthy Citizens. These attributes constitute the ideal towards which I shall aim. May I prove worthy of it, and of the confidence reposed in me by the Managers.</p> <p>I greatly appreciate the sentiments of my predecessor recorded on the previous page, and wish him a long and happy retirement which I feel he has well merited.</p> <p>Mrs Styles is also appointed from today.</p> <p>Thos. E Styles</p>	
<p>4/2/1918</p>	<p>Started my duties today, Friday being a holiday in order to give us a chance of getting our house straight. Mr Page came and introduced me to Teachers and Scholars – another kindly act.</p>	
<p>4/2/1918 [sic]</p>	<p>This – my first week here – has passed off very happily. The children have done their best to give me a good impression. I have had occasion to punish 3 boys for what constituted a breach of orders. It is obvious that a firm hand is necessary as well as a sharp eye for there is a tendency towards copying and a certain crude deceit on the part of a few. Sts. III and IV form a class of such unwieldy dimensions and of such varying attainments that I have decided to put some back into St. III and promote others to 1st class. The latter class is also a mixed lot, so that, with those from St. IV, I shall be able to work it as two sections, which I believe will prove beneficial.</p> <p>Physical exercises – in the playgrounds – have been neglected, but I have already arranged for Sts. III-VII (boys and girls separate) to take these lessons which are so beneficial to health and helpful to discipline.</p> <p>The staff have without exception done their best to make these first days go as smoothly as possible.</p> <p>There seems to be a certain laxity in regard to attendance, far too many children absenting themselves for days and half-days without adequate excuse. This will have to be stopped.</p>	
<p>11 & 12/2/1918</p>	<p>School closed owing to non-delivery of coal.</p>	
<p>13/2/1918</p>	<p>Opened school, the coal having been delivered yesterday afternoon.</p> <p>Mrs Styles is absent owing to illness which the Doctor certifies will prevent her resuming duties for 3 weeks at the best. She was taken ill at the home of her Mother in Worcester.</p> <p>Today I have rearranged the children as foreshadowed in my note under Friday's date. The classes are now numerically more even, and as the basis of the change has been ability, I anticipate that it will be beneficial both from the educational and disciplinarian points of view.</p>	

18/2/1918	<p>Miss EM Dry has been sent by the Director to act as temporary teacher during the absence of Mrs Styles. She started her duties this afternoon.</p> <p>Rev J Webster visited & took 1st Class in Scripture.</p>	
21/2/1918	<p>Received release certificate for Hubert C Pitman from Correspondent. The boy is exempt 3 days per week.</p>	
1/3/1918	<p>Miss EM Dry finished her duties here this afternoon after doing a useful fortnight's work.</p>	
4/3/1918	<p>Mrs Styles resumed her duties this morning.</p> <p>I regret to record the punishment of two boys for making use of bad language. This evil seems to be rather rife here and I have decided to adopt strong measures in order to stop it. This morning I spoke to the boys on the subject with the intention of pointing out the wickedness and disgrace of the matter, as well as warn them of the matter.</p>	
7/3/1918	<p>During the latter part of last week I developed influenza which by Friday afternoon had become so bad as to make it impossible for me to attend school. I have resumed work this morning but am feeling far from fit.</p> <p>The coughs and colds in the school are still very general, and some cases are really very bad.</p>	
19/3/1918	<p>The coughs and colds are now so acute as to make oral teaching almost impossible.</p> <p>This morning I rang up the office of the County Medical Officer and was advised to treat a few children as "test" cases. Consequently I am sending four to Dr Johnson for examination. After he has reported I shall know better how to act.</p>	
20/3/1918	<p>Dr Johnson reported that two of the four children are suffering from whooping cough and that this malady is general in the district. I telephoned this to MOH who ordered me to close until 1st April.</p> <p>Easter holiday from 28th March to Ap. 8th.</p>	
8/4/1918	<p>This morning I received an intimation from MOH advising closure for another week. Have to report to Worc. on Monday next.</p>	
15/4/1918	<p>Reported to Worc. that there are between 60 and 70 children in school with coughs and that there are 37 away for the same reason. School closed until 20th.</p>	
22/4/1918	<p>School re-opened. Coughs practically cleared away. Attendance, particularly in infants, poor.</p> <p>The gardening class has an extra lesson today because of the urgency of the work.</p>	
23/4/1918	<p>Attendance greatly improved.</p>	

	<p>The Vicar attended after prayers and gave the children an interesting and instructive lesson on St George's Day.</p> <p>The new furniture – 2 chairs and 2 cupboards – has been delivered.</p>	
26/4/1918	The gardening class had another extra lesson today because of the favourable weather and urgency of the work.	
30/4/1918	I have drawn up a new time table which proves to work well. The general level of work is so low, however, that I have instructed the staff to more or less dispense with the time table for the present and to use their discretion in giving extra time and attention to Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.	
1/5/1918	<p>Mrs Abrey has been away today since 10 o'clock in order to attend the funeral of a friend.</p> <p>Gardening has not been taken today as it is more beneficial to change the usual Wednesday afternoon lessons for those of Thursday in consequence of the above absence.</p>	
2/5/1918	The School Nurse visited this morning and inspected all the children of whom 19 are reported.	
3/5/1918	The work in the garden is so backward that the gardening class is having another extra practical lesson today.	
9/5/1918	<p>We all attended church at 9 o'clock and returned at 9.40. The children behaved well and enjoyed the Ascension tide service immensely.</p> <p>In order to mark the day, and in order to show appreciation of the splendid start made in connection with our WSA [<i>War Savings??</i>] the children are having an extra half-hour's play.</p>	
10/5/1918	I am taking another practical lesson in gardening today.	
21/5/1918	I have excluded Ivor Perkins for scabs on face, and Nancy Smith for pimples on face suspecting chickenpox.	
24/5/1918	<p>I am leaving school today at 9.15 in order to attend for Medical Re-examination at Public Hall Worcester at 10 o'clock.</p> <p>Returned to school at 3 o'clock. I was placed in Grade II, and was afterwards informed by the Director that there is little prospect of my being retained in school. [<i>Medical related to conscription; Grade II = Likely to achieve Grade I if trained. Grade 1 = fit for service.</i>]</p>	
28/5/1918	Medical examination by Dr M Williams. There are 11 cases of chickenpox in the school and many of the infants have very bad coughs.	
30/5/1918	<p>This morning I received the following summary of the results of the Medical Inspection:-</p> <p>Olive Cheshire – Nasal obstruction; sore on tongue</p>	

	<p>Frances Tuffley – Delicate</p> <p>Margaret Dyson – Pulmonary tuberculosis</p> <p>Joseph Moule - “ “</p> <p>Hubert Pitman – Disordered action of heart. Must not lift heavy weights</p> <p>Turpin Wood – Rheumatism</p> <p>John Pugh – Delicate</p>	
3/6/1918	<p>Miss Colbeck is absent today with a bad throat.</p> <p>Release certificates for June issued today.</p>	
5/6/1918	<p>Miss Colbeck returned today although her throat has not yet recovered fully.</p> <p>John Burt[??] is absent for agricultural purposes. His release certificate has not yet been issued as the Correspondent has not signed but the application form being in order I considered myself justified in giving permission until the Correspondent’s signature has been obtained.</p>	
11/6/1918	<p>The attendance is very poor. Chickenpox seems to be developing – between 20 and 30 children having already been excluded.</p>	
14/6/1918	<p>Another drop in the attendance has to be recorded, the percentage being only 72. Exclusions for chickenpox account for the majority of the absentees but there are still too many unnecessary days and half-days. Drastic remedies seem to me to be the only remedy in most of the cases.</p>	
29/6/1918	<p>School closed for a fortnight.</p>	
16/7/1918	<p>Re-opened school. Miss Smith is absent because of illness.</p> <p>The children have been reclassified, and the fresh work based on new schemes has been commenced. These schemes have been approved by Mr Jenkin[??] HMI who came and saw me on Wednesday last.</p>	
18/7/1918	<p>Mr Matthews HMI visited and spent the whole day from 10.30 in the school.</p>	
22/7/1918	<p>Miss Smith returned to duty.</p> <p>Drawing has been started today.</p>	
26/7/1918	<p>Today I temporarily resign my Headship of the school for service with the Army. I trust my successor will spend a happy and successful time here.</p> <p>Thos. E Styles</p>	
29/7/1918	<p>I, Elsie Muriel Craig (10/1395) commence duties in the school.</p>	
9/8/1918	<p>I conclude my duties at Ombersley School today. [Styles]</p>	

20/8/1918	Resumed duties today, the work of the school being in charge of Mrs Styles during my absence.	
23/8/1918	Mrs Abrey is absent today owing to the serious illness of her mother. Miss Colbeck is also absent having had permission from Mr Amphlett to go to Liverpool. I have sent one of the top girls to help Mrs Stanton & another to help Miss Smith. [<i>Mrs Abrey's mother is Mrs Page, wife of former Headmaster. She died at this time.</i>]	
25/8/1918	Three cases of diphtheria in the school during the weekend so the school was closed for a fortnight.	
9/9/1918	School re-opened – attendance very poor.	
10/9/1918	The two upper classes went out blackberrying in charge of Mrs Styles & myself during the afternoon.	
12/9/1918	Closed this afternoon for blackberry picking.	
13/9/1918	Mrs Styles has taken the children who picked the most blackberries yesterday out picking this afternoon. I am taking charge of the remainder of the upper classes.	
16/9/1918	School closed this afternoon for blackberry picking.	
17/9/1918	School closed this afternoon for blackberry picking.	
18/9/1918	I went to Droitwich this morning starting at 8.15 to obtain some empties for blackberries which the children brought.	
20/9/1918	Half-holiday given for blackberry picking.	
23/9/1918	<i>Scripture Report – favourable. Signed JB Frith</i>	
24/9/1918	Holiday for blackberry picking.	
30/9/1918	Holiday for blackberry picking.	
1/10/1918	Holiday for blackberry picking. Mrs Abrey left school yesterday.	
2/10/1918	Time table not adhered to. As so many boys are working on the land at potato picking I have sent some extra ones out to the gardens while I took stock.	
4/10/1918	The school closed today for the autumn holiday.	
4/11/1918	The school re-opened after a month's holiday. Attendance very poor owing to Influenza & to the fact that so many are away for potato picking. Miss Florence Watkins commenced serving as an uncertificated teacher today.	
11/11/1918	Influenza very bad – only 98 present & the school is closed by Dr	

	Fosbroke for a week.	
18/11/1918	Owing to influenza only 56 present this morning. School closed by Dr Fosbroke until Nov 25 th .	
9/12/1918	The school re-opened today. Attendance very poor.	
10/12/1918	Much better attendance. As the work is so backward owing to the long closures, special attention is being paid to arithmetic & writing & the Time Table has not been strictly adhered to. The time table has been moved forward 15 mins. in the afternoon so as to save lighting.	
21/12/1918	The school closes today for the Christmas holidays until Jan 6 th .	
31/12/1918	At the Meeting of the Managers held after the school was closed for a fortnight, they decided to alter the date of the re-opening to Dec 30 th . I was in London at the time & had no intimation of the alteration until Dec 26 th & could not return to school before Dec 31 st . Mrs Styles opened the school on Dec 30 th .	
1/1/1919	Mr Styles took the boys for gardening today as he is home for 12 days leave.	
8/1/1919	No gardening taken today as it is wet.	
10/1/1919	Plan of the school completed and sent to Worcester.	
15/1/1918	The Vicar has taken 10 of the boys in the school to Worcester to the pantomime this afternoon. Some of them have been absent all day, the rest have been absent this afternoon.	
28/1/1919	Heavy snowstorm, so had no recreation in the afternoon and sent the children home at 3.20pm.	
29/1/1919	Owing to the snow there has been no gardening taken today.	
3/2/1919	Today I resume my duties as Headmaster of the school, after having spent exactly 6 months in the Army. Mrs Beck is away from school this week having been married on Saty. last Febry, 1 st . [<i>Is Mrs Beck Miss Colbeck??</i>]	
7/2/1919	Mrs Styles is absent today because of a very bad cold. Miss Watkins is taking Class II while I am taking Class III & IV. I am pleased to record that, taking into consideration the abnormal difficulties which Miss Craig has been continuously encountering, the work of the school has, during my absence, gone on satisfactorily. The results of the many closures will however take some considerable time to eradicate. The War Savings have gone along splendidly.	
10/2/1919	Mrs Beck has resumed work.	

	Mrs Styles is still absent.	
11/2/1919	Mrs Styles resumed work.	
27/2/1919	Mrs Stanton is away today because of the dangerous illness of her father-in-law.	
28/1/1919	<p>Mrs Stanton attended school this morning but as she was obviously unfit for work owing to anxiety and fatigue I asked her to return home, which she did.</p> <p>I am opening school half an hour earlier this afternoon in order to close at 3.15 so as to give the organisers of a whist drive and dance a better chance of preparing the school.</p> <p>A large number of the children are suffering from severe coughs which fact has resulted in a dropping off of attendance.</p> <p>Drawing and sewing are not being taken this afternoon.</p>	
3/3/1919	<p>I have given Mrs Stanton permission to be away until after the funeral of the late Mr Stanton.</p> <p>Mrs Styles is too ill to attend school.</p> <p>The absence of these two teachers has necessitated my bringing Miss Smith from the Infants' room for the time being.</p> <p>I am taking gardening today as the school is to be closed on Wednesday, and the weather is favourable for manuring and digging. In order to get a normally regular class I have today taken 4 boys who are exempted for agricultural purposes off the gardening register and put 4 others in their places.</p>	
6/3/1919	<p>Mrs Styles resumed her duties this morning.</p> <p>Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Spelling are so weak throughout the school that, for the time being, I am not working altogether according to the Time Table in order to devote more time to these subjects.</p>	
7/3/1919	<p>Mrs Stanton returned to school today.</p> <p>I am specially reporting to the Attendance Officer a number of children who are consistently irregular.</p>	
10/3/1919	As the weather is suitable and the work urgent I am taking the gardening class this afternoon.	
12/3/1919	<p>Meeting abandoned. Out of 80 children who presented themselves, 21 were sent home as they were literally soaked. Of the remainder arrangements were made for those – 11 in number – who were affected to a lesser degree to dry themselves at school.</p> <p>The time table will not be adhered to, and I have given instructions to the teachers to occupy the children in any way they like consistent with interest and utility.</p> <p>Afternoon. Meeting abandoned. Only 55 children present. The same method adopted as that adopted this morning is being made</p>	

	use of this afternoon.	
13/3/1919	Miss Watkins is away ill.	
14/3/1919	Miss Watkins is present today. As the work is urgent I am taking an extra gardening lesson this afternoon.	
19/3/1919	A very wet day, with the resultant drop in attendance.	
20/3/1919	Another wet, sleety day. Practically the same number present as yesterday.	
21/3/1919	The average attendance this week has fallen to 129.8, the result of unusually inclement weather.	
28/3/1919	This afternoon's session is being opened at 1 o'clock to enable the school to be vacated at 3.15 so that preparations for a Whist Drive and Dance may be commenced early.	
31/3/1919	This morning Miss Smith had such a bad cold and sore throat and was so obviously unfit for duty that I sent her home.	
2/4/1919	Miss Smith returned today.	
4/4/1919	The children who have been exempted for agricultural purposes returned on the 1 st inst. Intellectually and educationally they are in a very poor condition. This morning I sent two boys... home to clean their boots. One did not return until afternoon and the other was absent the whole day.	
17/4/1919	During the last fortnight I have examined the whole school in all subjects. The results as indicated in individual record books are satisfactory on the whole. The most backward Class is No. 4 and must receive very special attention particularly in regard to Writing and Arithmetic. School was closed today until 28 th of Easter Holidays.	