

Extracts from the Childerley Street Centre (now Henry Compton School) Headteacher's Log Book

1914

July 22 - Break up for summer holidays

August 12 - Reopen on account of 'break out of war'

1915

July 6 - Mr Caroline's visit, enquiry re munitions

October 1 - Inspector to see Drummond Lathe with a view to its removal to Shorsdith (?) Institute to be used in the training of munitions workers

October 4 - Headmaster receives order for transfer of Drummond Lathe as above

1917

March 16 - Half holiday—military distinction of Emery - Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)

April 20 - Half Holiday in honour of H Newman DCM King's Royal Rifles

August 28 - Instructions on Air Raids. If there is ample time the class ... to be brought into the lower hall; if not to remain in the Centre

September 25 - Air Raid drill

October 22 - Officer H fetch the 40 bedrests made to instructions of Mr Caroline for wounded soldiers

- Letter to the Headmaster re the above , expressing thanks of the committee to the boys and instructors for making the bedrests from the Wounded Emergency Fund

November 8 - close after morning session for three half days holiday in honour of three 'old boys' earning military distinction: E Green, military medal; George Brown, military medal; V Craft, military medal

November 27 - Mr Caroline's visit re bedrests for wounded French soldiers. 40 additional beds required.

1918

May 14 - "On the morning after an air raid, when the all clear signal is given after 10 pm: school opens at a quarter to ten instead of quarter to nine" Note from Headmaster

November 11 - Signing of Armistice: AM half hours play, national anthem sung and the Lord's Prayer. PM work as usual 1.30-2.30: Play 2.30-3.00: Songs 3-3.30: Dismissal

November 28 - Visit of Mr Saunders to the school after 4 years internment as a prisoner of war in Germany. He gives a short account of his experiences to the assembled staff and scholars.

1917

4. Year 4 & measure their drainage time at
baths after the swimming season.

15 Term examinations commencing at the
afternoon

AIR RAID DRILL

22 Term examinations end after morning
SCHOOL SIGNAL: Ringing of handbell, followed by four blasts
of whistle.

Officers & staff fetch the 40 brass made
instructions by Mr. Gardiner for winter

WHEN SIGNAL IS GIVEN:

1. The classes at work on top floor (i.e. in Art Room and Chemical Laboratory) should be brought by the teachers in charge into the Lower Hall.
2. All other classes should remain in the rooms where they are working.
3. Odd boys out of their classes should rejoin the same promptly.
4. Any class at Physical Exercise in playground should be brought into its own class-room, if vacant; - if not, into the Lower Hall.
5. In all classes the boys should be moved to the side of the room or Hall remote from the outside windows, and should stand, or (preferably) sit, with their backs to the outside windows.
6. The doors of all class-rooms should be opened and hooked back, and the windows opened slightly.

TASK

It is November 11 1918, Armistice Day. You are the Headteacher of the Childerley Street Centre and you are giving the assembly to the scholars and staff at the school. You have to write a speech that reflects on the experience of the school during the Great War. Make sure you use as much material as you can from the Log Book and the Air Raid Drill.