

Date	Pound St School Moretonhampstead Log-Book entry 1876-1891
Aug 4th 1876	New school opened. William Down, Certificated Teacher.
Aug 4th 1876	Found 'the boys very rough in manner & extremely ignorant. Not a single boy in the 4th class could read & many did not know their letters'.
Aug 4th 1876	28 boys on the register.
Aug 4th 1876	School board members Mr Hill & Mr Cuming frequent visitors. Want to know if school & boys clean. Promise Xmas treat if boys behave.
Aug 4th 1876	Punishments for 'telling falsehoods' & truancy.
Aug 4th 1876	Fee of 6d per week - some boys withdrawn as cannot pay.
Nov 1876	Irregular attendance as many working in fields - 17/68 absent.
Dec 1876	Several absences because of wet weather.
Dec 1876	Term ended. Mr Cuming gave the treat - (<i>so must have behaved!</i>).
Jan 1877	3 monitors - A Godfrey, Dolbear, H. Steer.
Jan 1877	Henry Jeffery absent to look after house & children while mother at Prayer Meeting at Miss Mincham's.
Jan 1877	Scarlet fever outbreak near Moor Wood. Several absent.
Jan 1877	Edwin Short absent ill according to his mother but seen by several boys playing football in the Sentry.
Jan 1877	Several boys kept in during 'dinner hour' to learn their home lessons. Youths & boys entered school & struck a pupil!
Feb 1877	Suffered much from smoke from down draught in both chimneys.
Feb 1877	Albert Crout encouraged by parents to truant?
March 1877	James Dymont assists - anxious to be a teacher.
March 1877	George French absent 2x to fetch milk from Mr Cummings (a School Board member!) at Linscott.
June 1877	James Aggett off for 'inflammation of eye caused by smoking'- later found out that 'George Martin threw a match at him'!
June 1877	Attendance very irregular - on average 69/93.
June 1877	James Aggett absent WOL, after spending school fees on tobacco & is 'with the lowest characters in the town'.

June 1877	Complains Board should enforce bye-laws on attendance as finds some of parents more negligent than boys.
June 1877	James Aggett found to have slept out of house for several nights.
June 1877	James Aggett 'captured (<i>sic!</i>) in Sentry after 5 weeks truancy.' Punished. Promises 'to amend his mode of life.' Absent the next week!
July 1877	Several boys reported for stealing gooseberries. Given reprimand.
July 1877	Inspected by Edward H Burrows HMI. Average attendance 76/91.
July 1877	Mr Hill gave prizes to 10 boys who passed the Government Exam - <i>N.B. did not include James Aggett!</i>
Aug 1877	End of term - poor attendance blamed on Wrestling Match in town.
Sep 1877	Very irregular attendance. Average 58/97. Complains about Board failure to compel attendance. Absences cause lessons to be repeated.
Oct 1877	Edwin Short reported as 'addicted to thieving' - stole 2 cakes & tobacco from Plymouth Inn & gave some to George Martin. Both reprimanded.
Oct 1877	Fred. Thomas Shepherd began as monitor to replace A. Godfrey.
Oct 1877	2 boys punished by 'good thrashing with cane for insubordination'.
Oct 1877	Parents complains of monitor's punishment - i.e. write dictation out 5x - but found to have done his duty.
Nov 1877	School disturbed by rough boys shouting outside, threw apple at a boy & pieces of cabbage into the school room. 'These disturbances frequently occur'.
Nov 1877	Complains about standard of monitors - wants an assistant master or pupil teacher in 3rd or 4th year.
Nov 1877	Last School Board resolution restricting corporal punishment is 'bearing fruit'. Edwin Short - 'an incorrigible young scamp & both a thief & liar' sent message that he is not coming to school 'to be knocked about by the master'.
Nov 1877	Complaint to the master of boys trespassing in orchard.
Nov 1877	J. Hill JP Chairman of board. Average attendance 71.1/93.
Dec 1877	Allegation against monitor found unfounded by Mr Hill. Down complains board does not punish parents who bring false charges against teachers.

Dec 1877	Complains board only serves notices to attend to parents of truanter.
Dec 1877	Complains about standard of monitors - wants an assistant master or pupil teacher in 3rd or 4th yr.
Dec 1877	Mass absenteeism as boys collecting holy bushes for Xmas season.
Jan 1878	Edwin Short is 'one of most incorrigible young scamps I have met in any school'.
Jan 1878	Complains several boys rule their parents. One boy off school 'to collect sticks for firing'.
March 1878	Boys cautioned about 'injuring the turf in the Sentry'.
March 1878	Samuel Hill's father came in & took away son who was being kept in lunchtime as punishment - threatens to 'kick down door' if anyone tries to stop him & 'to warn the master if his boy is warmed'!
March 1878	Boys smile when threatened with school board action for truancy as know 'from experience that no such proceedings will be taken'.
March 1878	Average attendance 65.5/91.
March 1878	Boy's mother calls at the master's house in the evening to complain of unjust punishment - not upheld.
April 1878	Names 3 regular truanter, 4 boys who work for parents & 7 who work for other people.
May 1878	8 boys have assisted him after a monitor left. One boy, sent to a house to find why another is absent, finds him carrying water & told by mother to say he's at the station & not at home. Complains many such mothers in Moreton who train their sons to lie!
July 1878	Half boys off school hay-harvesting & picking wortleberries.
July 1878	Boy punished for carelessness in work, truancy & bawling out in class 'as if being murdered while only having 2 strokes of a small cane'. Given 3 strokes on hands & 3 or 4 on shoulders while 'his mother was screeching outside the windows making use of the most abusive language'. Boys examined & school inspected.
Sep 1878	113 on register but many corn-harvesting.
Oct 1878	Inspection report. 'Mr Down with much energy & perseverance continues to effect good improvement in spite of not having sufficient assistance. Promising beginning in subjects under Art. 19C & the boys show considerable intelligence. Upper standards - did work well & neatly. 1st standard defective in attainments - needs pupil teacher. Registers should be regularly supervised by managers'.
Oct 1878	Attendance greatly improved in last 2 weeks because 'Board adopted more stringent measures of compulsion with some parents'.

Nov 1878	Attendance down due to snow.
Nov 1878	Exmined 3rd class under Master Barrett - not doing well.
Dec 1878	Truanter disturb school by bawling into classroom window.
Jan 1879	School closed due to smoke from down draught in chimneys. Ventilation very defective.
Jan 1879	Almost choked again with smoke for most of week.
Feb 1879	Mother came in for 4th time to complain about boy being kept in during dinner time.
Feb 1879	Country boys absent in wet weather.
Feb 1879	Almost stifled with smoke again.
March 1879	Suffering badly from smoke.
April 1879	Chain-bolt put on doors of school by order of board 'to prevent intrusion of quarrelsome parents'.
April 1879	Master Barrett has left. Master absent occasionally from school in week owing to death of only son on Sun 20th April.
May 1879	Caned 2 boys for 'use of profane & disgusting language in the streets'.
June 1879	Week's holiday for Whitsun & visit of Bath & West of England Ag. Soc. at Exeter.
June 1879	Frank Gillbert given 'good thrashing for impertinence'.
July 1879	Toilets blocked for some weeks - 'horrible stench'.
July 1879	Opie brought to school by mother who asked for him to have severe thrashing for truancy - given.
July 1879	Several absent collecting whortleberries.
Aug 1879	Inspection report summary - general state praiseworthy in all aspects. Results of instruction excellent. WH Dolbear & A Leat recognised as stipendiary monitors. Average attendance 59/83.
Sep 1879	Absences for hay & corn harvest.
Oct 1879	Dolbear replaced as monitor by Blackmore. Other monitors Leat & Major.
Nov 1879	2 truanter reported in Sentry. Went with 2 monitors to 'capture' them & caught one at Millbrook - 'given good thrashing'. On way through town came across 8 other truanter - 'some trundling hoops & others loitering about looking in shop windows'.
Dec 1879	Monitor Leat been kicking boys in the playground - given a reprimand.
Jan 1880	Leat still kicking boys. Cannot persuade one of better boys to be pupil teacher.
Feb 1880	Harvey Dyer truanter - illegally employed by the Rector.

March 1880	Refused to admit boy as no fees with him. His 'reputed father, a low rough known as 'the general', threatened to put his fist in my face if I did so again'. Not perturbed, boy sent home again next day am & pm when came with no fees. School board sympathetic but did not see their way to help him!
April-May 1880	Complains not able to carry on work of school with present staff of teachers. 2nd standard very backward in arithmetic.
May 1880	Worst average attendance since school opened = 28/80.
June 1880	Lack of water at pump.
July 1880	Half-holidays for Chapel & Church Sunday School treats.
July 1880	27 certificates for 3rd & higher standards are a gift of Mr Crump, VC of School Board.
Aug 1880	Report 1880: Praised for cleanliness, discipline & good manners. Thorough & creditable instruction. Remarkably good attainments in higher standards. 1st standard backward & Grammar, History & Geography below mark. Weakness fully accounted for by deficiency in effective teaching staff. Managers doing what they can. E. J. Blackmore & G. Major stipendiary monitors. F. Rowe failed. Grant £49.
Sep 1880	Low attendance owing to harvesting & heavy rain.
Sep 1880	Some boys admitted at age 7 to school for only the first time. A 'gang of them spend time in the Sentry making mud-pies'.
Oct 1880	Many have measles. Heavy snow. Poor attendance.
Nov 1880	Pump finally mended! Urinal & closets whitewashed. Week later pump out of order!
Nov 1880	Absences - snow & 'watching marriage of Rector's daughter'.
Dec. 1880	Better attendances after several orders served on parents.
Dec. 1880	2 weeks after improvement attendances down again!
Jan 1881	Closed by snow for week.
Jan 1881	Water dripping from snow. Master fears he has rheumatism as last year.
Feb 1881	School 'damp, cold & smoky much of the time'. Poor attendances.
Feb 1881	40 boys in 4th class taught by a 13 yr old.
June 1881	Attendance orders served on 11 boys - names them. Absences for whortle berry picking.
July 1881	Separate inspectors for Standards Work & Grammar & for History, Geography & Music.

July 1881	Report for 1881: behaviour & standards commended, 'especially considering teacher has no effective assistance'.
Oct 1881	Absences through heaviest rainfall in living memory.
Feb 1882	Master's health suffering from smoke & draught from open window to let smoke escape!
July 1882	Mr Crump gave a treat at Wray to Pupil Teacher, monitors & 20 boys with best attendance.
July 1882	Report for 1882: School maintains praiseworthy character. Boys orderly & intelligent. E J Blackmore, Pupil Teacher, has passed 'fairly'.
Nov 1882	Teacher suffering from smoke & draught again. Cannot see properly. Cannot have singing practice! Goes on for weeks & heavy snow.
Dec 1882	Used 3 inch telescope to observe Venus from school yard.
Feb 1883	30 boys reported to board for poor attendance since Xmas.
April 1883	Teaches boys 'fine old English song Rule Britannia'.
Aug 1883	Report for 1883: After special difficulties taken into consideration, results satisfactory. But 1st standard badly taught. E. J. Blackmore passed 'well'.
Dec 1883	28/107 boys reported for poor attendance, including one whose 'parents of Punch Bowl Inn have already been prosecuted for non attendance'.
Jan 1884	School board resolution: 4th standard & higher to pay for all books & stationery. If pass prescribed standard to leave if do not keep up 75% attendance.
Jan 1884	Mr Crump to pay school fees for John Opie & Robert Sibley.
Jan 1884	Thrashed monitor in front of all school for disobedience! Teaches Pupil Teacher & monitors 7.45-9am.
July 1884	2 boys in a month 'try to kick & bite' teacher while he is punishing them.
July 1884	Report for 1884: Discipline not altogether good - some boys very troublesome. Teaching on whole effective with very satisfactory results. Ist standard backward in spelling & arithmetic. Poetry not properly understood.
Sep 1884	Boy sent home for collar or neck-tie.
Sep 1884	Medical Officer visit - complains of defective ventilation.
July 1885	Report for 1885: Discipline improved. Instruction on whole satisfactory. EJ Blackmore passed 'fairly'.

Oct 1885	Hele's charity money of £2 & 5s for 14 boys = 2-5s each put into PO savings Bank for them. Merited by attendance, conduct & passing their standard. Boys names listed.
Nov 1885	Edgar Arthur Davy starts as assistant master.
Dec 1885	Very poor attendance caused by parliamentary election.
May 1886	Number of boys late as school bell broken!
July 1886	Report for 1886: Discipline pretty good & instruction sound & succesful in most respects. Elementary class criticised for reading & neatness. Arithmetic not so good higher up. Poetry, Grammar & Geography good.
Sep 1886	Master upset that board meeting has ruled that infants over 8 must transfer to higher schools. Master did not know of the meeting & feels 'sold' by Miss Blair, Infants' School Mistress, who had attended after previously agreeing to deal with this among themselves.
Sep 1886	Has to admit 5 from infants on new ruling but only one up to standard.
Oct 1886	Prizewinners listed & 2 monitors get 10s each.
Nov 1886	John Adams right thumb cut off by George Cock with shovel in lunch break!
Jan 1887	Large part of ceiling fell in.
Feb 1887	Boys without copy books have to use slates.
April 1887	Boys absent 'planting potatoes'.
May 1887	No. of boys on register. Standard I: 13; II: 23; III: 17; IV: 13; V: 9; VI: 5; VII: 2. Total: 82
June 1887	3 days holidays for HM Jubilee.
July 1887	Report for 1887: Discipline not satisfactory. Rather critical of all aspects.
Oct 1887	The Master's salary reduced from £29.50 to £25 per quarter & warned will lose job after poor report if not better next year.
Nov 1887	All who pass 3rd standard to pay for stationery copy books. Fees set according to father's occupation.
Sep 1888	Report for 1888: Discipline & instruction much improved. Composition, Spelling & Grammar of upper classes only fair. Rest of work very satisfactory. Pupil Teacher is Harry Friend & Monitor is William Leat.
Feb 8 1889	William Down resigned.
Feb 11 1889	Matthew S Cox new master.

Sep 1889	Report for 1889: Good discipline & standard in elementary classes but higher up critical & not to get higher grant.
Sep 1889	School closed for 3 weeks for measles.
Dec 1889	Still absences for measles.
Sep 1890	Report for 1889-90: Grammar not good enough but exceedingly well taught & very good order.
Oct 1890	Drawing lessons introduced. Master's salary raised to £90 as assistant Davy leaving.
Nov 1890	Mr Gray complains about boy punished for lateness while another not. Cox explains to board some boys allowed to be late am - e.g. if collect papers from station or come from far.
Jan 1891	Old boy J Dymond visits from London - gives lesson on 'the magnet'.
Mar 1891	Ceiling fallen in - have to go to Infants School.
Mar 1891	Dr Engelbach complains to Master that Pupil Teacher Friend 'did not acknowledge him in the street'.
April 1891	Absences owing to visit of a menagerie to town.
May 1891	Pupil Teachers give new style 'object lessons' on Coal, Glass & Potato.
June 1891	Object lessons to upper classes on 'Electric & Magnetic Forces' - more science lessons now.
July 1891	Sets out Poetry & Geography Syllabus for 1891-2.
Aug 1891	Report for 1890-1: Excellent order though 'perhaps too military'. VG for spelling & arithmetic. Critical of neatness & grammar (so miss higher grant for English). Good Geography & fairly good recitation. Pupil Teacher Leat 'failed'.
Sep 1891	School Board accept fee grant of 10s a yr for each child 3+/-15
Nov 1891	To set up Savings Bank at school.