

## Timeline

1895: In January three schools open at Roath Park. The Infants' has its own building and the Girls' and Boys' share the two storey one, the Girls' downstairs and the Boys' upstairs. Each school is designed to cater for up to 380 children. In June at the Infants' 'The children were photographed this morning in the playground'.

1896: Overcrowding is already a problem as a large number of the new houses in Roath are now being lived in. In February there were 119 pupils in one class in the Boys' and in June the Head of the Girls' was demanding more desks as 'it is impossible for lessons like drawing to be properly performed with three girls at one desk'.

1897: One infant dies of Pneumonia and two others die of Scarlet Fever. In June the schools are closed for a week to mark the 60th anniversary of the coronation of Queen Victoria.

1898: The overcrowding gets worse. There are 577 children in the Infants', 467 in the Boys' and 462 in the Girls', a total of 1,506. For the first time a half-day holiday is given to mark St. David's Day.

1899: Cases of Ringworm and Diphtheria are reported. The schools close for a day in June 'for the Barnum and Bailey Show Procession and on account of the Sunday School Treats'.

1900: In February the gas has to be lit to warm the classrooms in the Girls' school. In March there's a half-day holiday to mark the Relief of Ladysmith by British troops in the Boer War. In May there are epidemics of Measles and Scarlet Fever and there's a whole day off to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday and the Relief of Mafeking.

1901: The classrooms in the infants' and Girls' are very cold and the gas has to be lit again. There are epidemics of Influenza and Scarlet fever. Queen Victoria dies and Edward VII is the new King.

1902: In March there's a day off to welcome home the soldiers from South Africa. In June there's a week off to celebrate the new King's Coronation. There are epidemics of Measles and Chicken Pox.

1903: Once again 'the heating apparatus is not sufficient for cold weather'. There are epidemics of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

1904: In May, Mr. Rhys T. Gabe, one of the teachers in the Boys' school joins the British Lions for a 5 month tour of Australia and New Zealand. In the same month the two top classes of the Boys' walk to Caerphilly Castle over Cefn On Hill.

1905: Mr. Riddell, one of the teachers in the Boys' school, dies from Meningitis in March. In October the schools are given a day's holiday to celebrate Cardiff becoming a city. In December, Mr. Gabe is one of the stars of the Welsh Rugby Team when they defeat the supposedly 'invincible' All Blacks at Cardiff Arms Park.

1906: In June the Infants' school is burgled and money is stolen from each classroom. In November there's a week's holiday to celebrate the opening of Cardiff's new City Hall and Law Courts in Cathays Park.

1907: In March one of the Pupil Teachers in the infants' is taken to the Sanitorium suffering from Diphtheria. In May half-day holidays for good attendance are introduced. In July there's a day off to mark the visit of the King and Queen to open the new Alexandra Dock. In October the Infants' is closed for three weeks 'on account of the Measles epidemic'.

1908: In January there's a half-day holiday to mark the visit to Cardiff of Mr. David Lloyd George. In October Standard 4 of the Girls' school 'went to the park to see the single dahlia, after which they had to draw it from memory'.

1909: In May education cuts of 6d. a head are imposed on the senior schools and 'Empire Day' is introduced. In November 182 of the Boys go to the Chrysanthemum Show in the Park Hall.

1910: In May King Edward dies and there's a day off to celebrate the Proclamation of the new King, George V. There are epidemics of Measles and Diphtheria.

1911: In January there are epidemics of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. In June the schools close for the week for the Coronation, but the King is ill and the ceremony is postponed. In September Mr. James Gray, the Head of the Boys' School when the schools opened, dies of Pneumonia. As early as 1906 when Mr. Gray was first away with illness the Deputy Head wrote of how he was ill 'on account of a cough which always came on when exposed to the cold and the draught of the Corridor'. He is replaced by Mr. Phillip Price who is at the school for less than three weeks before he too falls ill. Within a month he is dead.

1912: William Walters is the new Headmaster of the Boys' school. In March one of the teachers in the Girls' School 'sends a note stating that she is suffering from a Nervous Breakdown'.

1913: In February there's a special Assembly to mark the deaths of Captain Scott and his Antarctic Party who had set sail from Cardiff in 1911. Miss Phillips of the Girls' School is elected to the National Executive of the NUT and is absent for a day a week.

1914: Following the Declaration of War with Germany in August all the schools are closed. The Senior Schools for a week, the Infants' for a fortnight. Mr. H. Gale, a teacher at the Boys' school enlists in the 'Cardiff Pals', the 2nd Welsh Regiment. When the Infants' re-opens 'It has been arranged that two schools should be housed in one set of school buildings on the double shift system. Roath Park Infants and Crwys Road Infants are housed in this building'. The Roath Park children attend in the afternoons. In October another Boys' school teacher, Mr. David Lewis, joins the R.A.M.C.

1915: The Director of Education writes to all Boys' schools asking for the names of teachers who are unmarried and of recruitable age and one of the teachers in the Girls' school leaves 'to take up Red Cross work in a Military Hospital'.

1916: In February the Boys' school is again instructed to provide the Director of Education with the details of all teachers of recruitable age. He's particularly interested in those who have not yet volunteered to join the Army. In March the same school starts to teach a lesson a month on 'Patriotism'. In August one of the Pupil Teachers at the Boys' school is ordered by a Military Tribunal 'to take up work of an agricultural manner'.

1917: In February all teachers are required to sign a circular from the Director of Education stating that they object to 'Conscientious Objection to Military Service' and the children in the Girls' and Boys' schools start making sand bags for the Army. Mr. David Lewis returns to the Boys' school to find that 17 of the senior boys have taken on an allotment. In May short lessons promoting 'Food Economy' begin in the Boys' school and in December all the boys visit the Tank on display in Cathays Park.

1918: In June sad news arrives at the Boys' school: 'Lieutenant H.J. Gale, Assistant Master of this school, who entered as a Private in the Cardiff Pals on September 1st 1914, was awarded a Military medal and a Commission, then the Military Cross, has been killed in action'. In October, because of the epidemic of Influenza attendance drops to 56% at the Girls' school and all the schools in Cardiff are closed for a fortnight in an attempt to reduce infection. When they re-open there's another week's holiday to mark the Armistice and the ending of the First World War.

1919: In February the Boys' school is given a half-day holiday 'for exceeding £1,000 in War Savings' and in the summer an extra week is added to the annual month's holiday for all schools to mark the signing of the Peace Treaties.

1920: Measles and Mumps affect attendance at the Infants' in February but near the end of April, after almost 6 years of afternoons only, the Crwys Road children

return to their own school and Roath Park Infants' returns to normal teaching. In May one of the teachers there is excluded because there's a case of Diphtheria in her home. In September and October the schools are disrupted by the workmen installing coal-fired central heating and some of the old fireplaces are converted into cupboards.

1921: Between March and September Miss Eveline Phillips of the Girls' school is absent on NUT business. In December when the Infants' is inspected the Inspector praises the way the 'children are trained to attack words'.

1922: In January attendance falls 'owing to the great sickness amongst the children'. In April a snowstorm closes the schools and in May there's a half-day holiday to mark the visit of Sir Baden Powell to Cardiff. In October, Mr. J. Griffiths who had taught in the Boys' school since it opened, dies.

1923: In January Measles cuts the attendance at the Infants' to 55%. In April 'The children were presented this afternoon with boxes of chocolates, as a personal gift from the Duke of York to each child as a souvenir of his wedding. A day's holiday tomorrow has also been granted for the same occasion'. [The marriage of the Queen Mother]

1924: In January the Head of the Boys' school sends lists of 'Defectives' and 'Stammerers' to the City Hall. In February four of the Infants' teachers are away ill and in December another epidemic of Measles seriously affects attendance.

1925: In April Stuart Jones, Captain of the Boys' football team and Captain of Cardiff Schoolboys is chosen to be the Captain of the Welsh Team to play Scotland at Ninian Park. Epidemics of infectious diseases, including Whooping Cough, greatly affect attendance at the Infants' in late November and all through December.

1926: In March the pupils of the Girls' and Boys' are taken to the Park Hall cinema to see a film on 'The Care of the Teeth'. In April one of the teachers at the Girls' school is absent twice because of deaths at home. In September an epidemic of Measles hits attendance at the Infants' and for the very last time a Pupil Teacher appears on the staff list at the Girls' school.

1927: In January Influenza hits the staff and children. In May and June 'The Senior Girls attended the Clinic in the afternoon to receive special lectures on the care of children'. In September one of the teachers at the Girls' school is absent 'suffering from shock as a result of a motor-accident'.

1928: In March Mr. Morgan R. Thomas, the last of the original staff at the Boys' school, leaves to become the Head of Llandaff Boys' School. In June the schools close on the occasion of the Prince of Wales unveiling the Welsh National War Memorial in Cathays Park. During the summer holidays the daughter of one of

the teachers at the Infants' dies.

1929: In February Form 3 of the Boys' move into the new Hut in the playground and their school storeroom is converted into a staff-room. In August Miss Mary Jane Jones, the last of the original staff at the Girls' school, leaves to become the Head of Crwys Road School. In November the pupils in the Boys' school are inoculated against Diphtheria.

1930: In May the schools close to mark the visit of the Prince of Wales to Cardiff. In September the Head of the Boys' school notes that seven boys are not being promoted, five of them because of absence through illness. At the Girls' school 14 children are kept back. Among the reasons given are 'Very Backward', 'Brain Trouble' and 'Intellectually Weak'.

1931: In January, Arthur Dring, a pupil in Standard 1 of the Boys', breaks his thigh in a Games Lesson in the playground. In March 30 pupils from the Girls' school attend 'a Lecture on Gramophone Records'.

1932: In March there's a half-day holiday to mark the visit to Cardiff of the Duke and Duchess of York. In April and May epidemics of Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever affect attendance. In August the Headmistress of the Girls' school retires only to die a month later. At the end of October the Head of the Boys' school notes that '88 boys are now receiving milk daily, voluntarily'.

1933: In January an epidemic of Influenza hits the schools badly. Attendance at the Boys' falls to 75% 'the lowest for many years' and at the Girls' it's less than 70%. Though no figures are given at the Infants' the school gets a Medical Certificate to allow for the attendance figures to be ignored. In February a snowstorm closes the schools. In June 30 of the children from the Girls' school go to the swimming baths. In October there's an epidemic of Scarlet Fever and in November the Head of the Boys' school notes 'the temperature in some of the rooms is below 50 degrees and the gas has had to be lit'.

1934: In January one of the teachers at the Boys' school is away for a month due to 'Nervous Exhaustion'. In April, at the Girls' school 'The time-table will be slightly altered to allow 20 minutes of physical exercises every day in each class as suggested by the Board of Education'. The same month sees Chicken Pox hit the Infants'.

1935: In January the children are immunised against Diphtheria. In March there's an epidemic of Measles. In May the schools are closed for two days to celebrate the King and Queen's Jubilee and each child is given a Jubilee Mug. During the summer holidays the floorboards in the Boys' school corridor are replaced.

1936: In January there's a half-day holiday for the Proclamation of King Edward V111 and a day off for the funeral of King George V. The Heads of both the Boys'

and the Infants' receive vouchers for free boots for poor children from the Lord Mayors' Distress Fund. In December there's another half-day off for the Proclamation of King George V1.

1937: An epidemic of Measles hits the Infants' in January, February and March whilst the Headmistress of the Girls' school visits a lingerie factory 'by invitation of the Director of Education'. In April one of the teachers at the Infants' dies and in May there's a Coronation Tea and all the children are presented with souvenir mugs. In July there's a day off for the visit of the King and Queen to Cardiff.

1938: In January one of the teachers at the Infants' dies. In February the Head of the Boys' school dies. In May 13 year old Edna Bool dies at the Sanitorium. In September the Infants' is closed for two days for the distribution of Gas Masks and the schools start to have Air Raid Practices.

1939: In January two boys from the same class in the Boys' school have Diphtheria. In April Miss Annie Hurford retires from the Infants after over 42 years at the school. In September, following Britain's declaration of war with Germany, the Girls' and Boys' schools close for a week, the Infants' for a fortnight. When the Infants' does re-open the Head explains 'This week is to be an experimental one. All children living within four minutes of the school are to be tested in groups with a teacher as to how long it takes them to get home so that in case of air-raids no time will be lost'. In November the afternoon sessions are brought forward so as not to break 'Blackout' regulations.

1940: Because the weather is so cold in January playtime in the Infants' is abandoned and the children get an extra 10 minutes dinner time and go home 10 minutes earlier in the afternoon. In February the schools have a half-day holiday for the visit of their Majesties King George V1 and Queen Elizabeth to Cardiff. In March the Infants' lose their playtime again whilst their air raid shelters are being built. In May the Whitsun week holiday is cancelled following the German invasion of Holland, Belgium and France and one of the teachers at the Boys' school starts to have time off on a regular basis for 'Observer Corps Duty'. In July the schools receive a circular about 'Air Raid Warnings. Children who can reach home within five minutes must be sent home. Other children to the shelters'. Because of night raids and warnings morning sessions at the Infants' are reduced to 11-12 pm. Doctors find 'a number of cases of malnutrition' among the Boys and 18 cases are identified among the Girls. The Boys' school receives 'a quantity of net for the windows. These were cut up into suitable sizes by Teachers and Senior Pupils'. In August the gas masks are checked in the Boys' school and they have a gas drill. 'During the night of September 3rd bombs were dropped in the vicinity of the school. Two boys were seriously injured at their homes and taken to hospital. A number of houses were evacuated, the families including a number of our boys. Two delayed-action bombs were dropped about 50 yards away and, as a consequence, the school was closed for two whole days'. In October the peripatetic Welsh teacher who visits the Boys' school is

called up to join the Royal Navy and the Girls' school collects nearly £52 during 'Cardiff War Weapons Week'.

1941: 'On the night of 2nd January there was a serious air raid on Cardiff. A large number of fire bombs did much damage. Four fell in the Boys' yard, 6 in the Girls' yard and a number on the roads outside. Three fell in the Boys' school and two or three in the Infants' school. In the Boys' school one fell in the lobby and one in room 5. Both were put out quickly. One fire bomb fell in the recess behind the stock room. The door had to be forced open and a lath and plaster wall had to be broken through. A small fire had started but was put out by means of a stirrup pump. Much wood was charred, some paper spoiled and the ceiling saturated. These bombs and fires were put out by the caretaker (Mr. Dunn), Ronald Wensley (ex-pupil), Graham Leigh (pupil), Miss Wensley, wardens from the ARP Post and neighbours. An outbreak in the Infants' School was also got under control quickly'. The schools receive a circular about 'the Evacuation Scheme for School children' and because the school 'has been earmarked as an Emergency Centre' the necessary 'Blackout' is carried out. One night at the end of February another incendiary bomb falls on the roof of the Boys' school. 'The warning was given by Mr. George Morgan of Donald Street, who did splendid work in putting out the resultant fire. There is a big hole in the roof, and the floors are saturated. A gas pipe is fractured and the gas is turned off at the main meter...the boys have been sent home for the day'. Downstairs in the Girls' school one classroom is 'temporarily unuseable'. One night in the first week of March incendiary bombs destroy Marlborough Road Girls' and Boys' schools and a week later some of their pupils and teachers start at Roath Park. This involves considerable reorganisation as in order to accommodate the Marlborough pupils two classes from the Boys' and two from the Girls' move into the Infants' where they have to share classrooms. At the end of April 'Evacuation Week' sees the children who are being evacuated having medical examinations and in May 14 children from the Infants' are evacuated. Thirty-four from the Girls' school travel to Gelligaer and 45 of the Boys go to Ystrad Mynach. In June three of the boys return to Roath Park whilst one of the teachers at the Boys' school transfers to Penrenglyn Juniors at Treorchy in the Rhondda as 'a volunteer teacher under the Evacuation Scheme'. The schools hear that an ex-pupil 'Captain Alfred Edward Ward, Master Mariner, has been awarded the OBE for gallantry at sea, and bringing his ship safe to port in the face of enemy attacks'. In July a second evacuation of Cardiff schoolchildren takes place. In August the pupils of the Girls' school collect over £126 for War Savings.

1942: In January 'A parcel of presents consisting of sweets, toys, pens, pencils, notebooks and games was received from the American Red Cross and distributed among 48 boys' at the Boys' school. The same school collects £190 during 'Warship Week' which sees the schools of Cardiff raise £33,000. In April more Marlborough children start being taught at Roath Park and in May the gas masks of all the children are checked by Air Raid Wardens. At the end of the month, during the Whitsun week holiday, the Girls' and Boys' building is opened

as a 'Rest Centre' during large-scale Civil Defence exercises. In July circulars are received from the Education Office about 'Schools in the event of Invasion', 'Rationing Soap', 'Waste Paper Salvage', 'School Canteens' and 'Woollen Comforts for the Troops'. In September the schools are told that the children no longer need to carry their gas masks but that the examination and servicing of the masks would occur periodically. Twenty pupils from the Girls' school go to the City Hall to visit the 'Dig for Victory Exhibition'. At the Boys' school in October 'Supplementary Clothing Coupons' are issued to boys over 5ft. 3 inches tall or more than 7 stone 12lb. in weight. In November 'The School Canteen for Dinners only was opened at the Roath Park Presbyterian Church Hall...The dinners served were very good, and very satisfactory throughout the week'. At the Girls' school in December a conjurer entertains the children at the School Christmas Party.

1943: In January Christmas Gifts from the British War Relief Society of the USA were distributed. The Girls' school receives 30 gifts and 20 boxes of candies. In February an Emergency Air Raid Practice is carried out. The Head of the Boys' school notes 'the whole school was cleared promptly and in good order. 'Shelter Boys' went to the three shelters; 'Home Boys' remained in the yard. The three shelters were full (about 180 boys in all). Ventilation is bad in these places'. In April, after many years of asking for it, work begins on building a cast iron fire escape for the Boys' school. In May another 49 Marlborough pupils are transferred to Roath Park Girls' school and at the Boys' the Head notes that the three classes of Marlborough boys and their teachers who are at the school 'are now absorbed into Roath Park Boys' School'. Among the 4 teachers is Mr. George Thomas. Later in the month the children are immunized against Diphtheria and another air raid causes serious damage. Next day at the Girls' school 'Miss Hughes was unable to remain in school for she was suffering from shock after the early morning Raid, when her home was blitzed. Mavis Rees of 12 Penylan Road [a Marlborough Road Girl] was seriously injured and taken to hospital. Later she died as the result of burns and shock. The pupils of her class sent a wreath and a letter of condolence was sent to the nearest relative, an aunt'. During 'Wings for Victory Week' the Boys' raise £568 and the Girls' collect £1,254. 6. 6. which earns both schools an extra day's holiday in the summer. In July at the Boys' school six more pupils are evacuated 'at their parents request'. In September a party of senior boys goes to the 'Dig for Victory' exhibition. In December the Girls' school sends a parcel to British Prisoners of War and '195 articles to the British Ship Adoption Society - Comforts for 'Our' ship'.

1944: In January in the Infants' they distribute gifts from America. Next door at the Girls' 'Three members of 'Our' ship, M.V. Depa...visited the school. Although our visitors were Dutchmen they were able to make themselves understood and seemed to follow our conversation. A very pleasant time was had by all'.

In February the girls start using the canteen at Marlborough Infants. In March the Boys' school Football Team wins the Second Division Championship and there's



a half-day holiday `on the occasion of the visit of their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and Princess Elizabeth' to Cardiff. In April the Head of the Boys' school notes `Double Summer Time was brought into operation. As schools open at 9 am, this means 7 am solar time which is somewhat early for schoolchildren'. Despite this `Summer Time' the schools are cold in April and May because the Caretaker is instructed not to light the heating. In June comes news of the D-Day landings in Normandy. Later that month the Boys' school raises over £1,109 during `Salute the Soldier Week'. At the Girls' school where the target was £750 they manage to raise over £1,580. The Head of the Boys' school notes `During June and July 18 evacuees (unofficial) were admitted here. Since July 17th another 28 have been admitted (official)'. The Germans have launched their V1 and V2 rocket attacks on London and the South East of England. In September at the Infants' they start to give the children Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice and another batch of evacuees arrive at the Girls' and Boys' schools. At the Boys' there are now `51 official evacuees on our registers' and as a result the school `is very full'. At the end of October the Head of the Boys', Mr. David Lewis, retires after 38 years at the school. In December toys from America are distributed at the Infants' Christmas Party.

1945: At the end of January the schools close for a week because of an exceptionally heavy fall of snow. In March the evacuees are invited to the City Hall for a special tea and entertainment. In May the schools close for three days to celebrate `VICTORY DAY IN EUROPE. VE DAY CELEBRATIONS'. When they re-open there are Thanksgiving Services. In June Mr. George Thomas of the Boys' school is given leave of absence to stand as the Labour Party Candidate for the Cardiff Central Constituency in the General Election held on 5th. July. In July the Head of the Girls' school records that `Of the 68 evacuees admitted to this school in July and September 1944 all have now returned to London except one pupil and she leaves at the end of the month'. At the end of July George Thomas is duly elected as an M.P. In October 30 pupils from the Girls' school visit the 'Mulberry Exhibition' and the school raises over £1,058 during 'Thanksgiving Week'. In November the half-term holiday is extended to include VJ Days and all schools are `granted a holiday on the occasion of the visit of their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Cardiff'. At the end of December `Chocolate from Canada was distributed' before the Infants' school closed for the Christmas Holidays.

1946: In February the Boys' school receives `27 tins of cocoa powder and sugar and powdered milk for distribution – a gift from Canada' and it is distributed to all the boys who bring jam jars to school for the purpose. In June the schools celebrate `Victory Day'. At the Girls' school this involves an Assembly, Sports, Fancy Dress Parade, Community Singing and Tea before the girls are given the afternoon off.

1947: At the end of January a heavy fall of snow sees attendance drop at the Girls' school to 46%. In March another heavy fall closes the schools for a day. In

July 52 pupils from the Boys' school visit London for a day. Their first stop is the House of Commons where they are met and given a tour by Mr. George Thomas MP. In September the school leaving age rises from 14 to 15. Because there is 'insufficient accommodation' at the Boys' school those boys who are due to come up from the Infants' stay where they are and the Cardiff Education Committee resolves 'that for the time being children residing south of Albany Road and west of Cottrell Road will not be admitted to Roath Park School'. Later in the month all the schools in Cardiff are closed to celebrate the Marquis of Bute's gift to the city of Cardiff Castle and Bute Park. In October a Canteen for the Girls' and Boys' schools opens and in November the schools close for a day to mark the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten.

1948: In January 'A party of Senior Boys left today to attend the Porthcawl Camp School for a fortnight' and the Head of the Boys' school complains to the Director of Education about the dangerous state of the pot-holed playground. In April the schools have a half-day holiday 'in celebration of the Silver Wedding of the King and Queen' and there's a day off in May to mark the visit to Cardiff of Princess Elizabeth. In July the Boys' school holds its first Sports Day at the Recreation Ground. In September, Mr. Goronwy J. Jones of the Boys' school is one of the five Britons nominated by the Foreign Office to attend the General Assembly of the United Nations at Paris. To the Head's amazement he is given unpaid leave of absence by the Cardiff Education Committee to attend. In October Mr. W. Rees Jones of the Boys' school retires after over 43 years at the school. Several former colleagues attend his retirement party, including Mr. Morgan R. Thomas who was on the staff when the school opened in 1895. In November the schools close to celebrate the birth of Prince Charles.

1949: In July 25 senior girls attend the Porthcawl Camp School and Mr. Goronwy J. Jones learns that he's 'been successful in capturing the Prize offered by the United Nations Organisation for his Essay on 'The Implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights'. This award enables Mr. Jones to proceed to Geneva next month to study the work of the European Office of the United Nations'. In September, because the schools are so congested one class from the Girls' and one from the Boys' move into empty classrooms at Albany Road. In October a party from the Boys' school visit the four masted sailing ship 'Pamir' in Cardiff Docks which has just made its final voyage with a cargo of wheat from Australia. In October there are 330 children in the Infants'. In November when the Girls' school is inspected there are 363 pupils.

1950: In January a new class for children aged under 5 is formed at the Infants'. In March the new Chairman of the Education Committee visits the Boys' school and is 'amazed at the way we are handicapped for space, equipment and lighting etc.' In April a gift from Canada of about a pound of apples for each pupil is distributed at the Girls' school. In July 'Intelligence Tests' are given for the first time in the Infants'.

1951: On the 25th. of July when the schools break up for the summer holidays the Roath Park Girls' and Boys' schools close forever. In September when the school re-opens as well as the Infants' there are two new schools: Roath Park Junior Mixed and Roath Park Secondary Modern Boys School. Both share the same building, the Juniors downstairs and the Secondary boys upstairs. In November a book 'Challenge to the Peacemakers' by Mr. Goronwy Jones who is now teaching the boys in the Secondary Modern is published. In December work starts on installing Electricity at Roath Park.

1952: In February there's a half-day holiday to mark the Proclamation of Queen Elizabeth 11 and another one to mark the funeral of King George V1. In July the installation of Electricity is finally completed and the Secondary Modern boys win the Cardiff Schools Football Championship Shield. In September the schools are closed to allow people to vote on whether Cinemas should open on Sundays. In November Wilfred Wooller, Captain of the Glamorgan Cricket Team speaks to the 4th Form Boys at the Secondary Modern.

1953: In January and February the Secondary Modern is redecorated. In March the boys of that school plant a Purple Beech Tree at the Recreation Ground to mark the Coronation year. In April and May souvenir mugs and sweets are given to all the children to mark Queen Elizabeth's Coronation. A picture of the Queen is unveiled in the Junior school and in June the whole of that school goes to the Capital Cinema in the town centre to see the film of the Coronation. In July the schools close for the visit to Cardiff of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

1954: In January a group of five young Germans visit the Secondary Modern school and in February the lavatories in the playgrounds freeze up. At the Secondary Modern's St. David's Day Concert the new school song is sung for the first time.

1955: In May the schools celebrate Empire Day for what was to be the very last time. In July 'His Excellency Dr. Don Domingo A. Densi, Ambassador Extraordinary' visits the Secondary Modern 'for the ceremony of unveiling the Bronze Plaque on the occasion of naming one of the Class-Rooms 'The Argentine Room'. The Plaque commemorates the friendship established between the School and Argentina and the Ninetieth Anniversary of the Welsh Colony of Patagonia'. In August 22 of the Secondary Modern boys spend three weeks holiday in Hamburg in Germany and in September another plaque is unveiled at the school to commemorate the Coronation tree planted in 1953 and a boy is 'excluded on being a suspected Polio case'. In October the children are immunized against Diphtheria and there's a half-day holiday to mark the 50th anniversary of Cardiff becoming a city. In November two of the classes at the Juniors visit the Chrysanthemum House at Roath Park.

1956: When the Secondary Modern re-opens in January they find that 'Carpenters have re-floored a part of the Corridor including the entrance to the

Music Room'. In February the Juniors receives its first Inspection Report and the Inspector complains 'There are no facilities for following broadcast lessons, though all the rooms have been wired for the purpose'. In March the Secondary Modern is given an old Harmonium which 'will be most helpful in the morning assembly' and in June 'Mr. Rhys Gabe the famous International Rugby Player visited the school this morning. Mr. Gabe was a member of staff when Cardiff received City Status in 1905'. Later that month the Head of the Secondary Modern attends the formal opening of Penylan Library. In September the Infants' school lends one of its classrooms to the Juniors. In October the Director of Education writes to the Headmaster of the Secondary Modern congratulating him on being made President of the Cymmrodorian Society. In December his school raises over £12 for 'the Hungarian Relief Fund'.

1957: In February two brothers in the Secondary Modern, Bernard and Brian Regan, become Welsh Boxing Champions and in April 41 of the boys are transferred to the new Heol Hir school in Llanishen. In May the keys of the new staff cloakroom are given to the Head of the Juniors. In June workmen started installing new wash-up basins in the Secondary Modern. At the very end of October the Head of the Secondary Modern notes 'Late this afternoon, after School hours, a tragic accident occurred to one of the pupils, Peter Edward Cleves, of Form 1A. He was killed in a road accident while cycling along Colchester Avenue towards Newport Road sometime about 5 pm'. In December Mr. Frank Holway retires after 38 years at Roath Park.

1958: In January a new Headmistress arrives at the Infants' and in February there's a staff meeting there to discuss 'Modern Methods' of teaching. In March a Tape Recorder arrives at the Secondary Modern. In April the Head of the Juniors is told that the capitation for the forthcoming year will be 19/6 per head with a Needlework Allowance of 10/- per pupil. In June she is told that the allowance for PE equipment will be £9. In July the Deputy Head of the Secondary Modern, Mr. John L. Alexander, retires after 37 years at Roath Park. In October Mr. George Thomas MP pays a friendly visit as does 'Mr. James Davies, an old boy of Roath Park School. He played in the School Football Team in 1897 and became Captain of the first Cardiff Schoolboys Football Team'.

1959: In March the top classes in the Juniors sit the '11+' exams for the first time. In April the boys of the Secondary Modern are shown a film 'Facts and Figures. Smoking and Lung Cancer'. In May that school gets a telephone. In June 'The school was honoured this morning by the visit of Mr. Dan Lewis (Former Pupil)...He has lived in South America from 1912 (14 years in Patagonia)'. In July at the Secondary Modern's Speech Day the Guest Speaker is 'Mr. George Thomas MP. Mrs. Thomas Davies (Mother of Mr. George Thomas) presented the prizes'. In August an Inspection Report on the Infants' complains 'Numbers in the classes are still very large, ranging from 39 – 47'. The Reception Class is the biggest one in the school with 47 children. In September at the Secondary Modern 'A few days before school restarted, work commenced on the reflooring

of the Argentine & Music rooms’.

1960: During the Christmas holidays in the main building the staircase up to the Secondary Modern school is re-levelled and in February the Senior Inspector of Schools visits to ask the Headmaster about complaints made about one of his teachers excessively caning and hitting a boy and using ‘Abusive language’. In March Mr. Dicks visits the school, he had been a pupil in 1900. In April painters decorate the outside windows and paintwork. In May the schools are closed for the wedding of Princess Margaret and there’s a half-day holiday for ‘Commonwealth Day’. In June the Head of the Secondary Modern writes, ‘The tragic death of one of the scholars took place on Saturday evening, William (Billy) Simmonds, of 38 Rose Street, a pupil in Form 2A was drowned in the swift-flowing, rain swollen River Taff at Blackweir. His friend Vivian Phillips in 2B tried to save him. At the time of writing the body has not been recovered’. The Secondary Modern also learns it is to have a part-time School Clerk for one and a half days a week. In July the dame school raises over £3 for the ‘Six Bells Colliery Disaster, Abertillery’.

[Sadly only one volume of the Roath Park Secondary School Log exists and it ends in July 1960. The later volumes have disappeared. This is a pity because the Head of the Secondary Modern, Mr. D. Watkin Morgan, was meticulous in describing what was going on at Roath Park]

In December when the Infants’ and Juniors’ close for the Christmas Holidays they say goodbye to 88 children who are being transferred to the new Lakeside Schools opening in the New Year.

1961: In March the children are ‘given the Skin Test for the prevention of Tuberculosis’ and in June they are vaccinated against Poliomyelitis. The Juniors’ learns that 40 children have passed the ‘11+’ and will be going to Grammar Schools and 10 children will be going to Secondary Moderns. In November the schools close for people to vote on whether Pubs should open on Sundays.

1962: In May at the Infants’ they stop giving Cod Liver Oil to children under 5 years of age. In May the Head of the Juniors’ complains to the Police about parents parking their cars outside the school to drop off and pick up their children. In July Miss Blodwen James retires after 26 years at the school. In October children over 9 years old have their eyes tested and all the children are immunized against Poliomyelitis. In November the floor of the Corridor in the Infants’ is sanded and re-polished.

1963: In January when the schools re-open the children have to be sent home because the toilets are frozen. In June the top standards at the Juniors’ are shown a film ‘Smoking and You’. In December the staff at the Infants’ put on a Puppet Show for the children.

1964: In February the Heating breaks down and the Head of the Juniors' attends the Official Opening of Roath Health Clinic. In April two students from the 'Heath Training College' begin their practice at the Infants'. In May the Junior School Sports are cancelled owing to bad weather.

1965: In March the schools receive a Circular about the 'Winston Churchill Memorial Appeal'. In May the schools close for the afternoon session for Commonwealth Day. In September when the schools re-open after the summer holidays there are 166 children on roll in the Infants' and the Head of the Juniors', Miss Marie Singer is absent because of illness.

1966: In January owing to an accident to the Van the 'School Meals did not arrive until 1.15 pm'. In July Miss Elsie Griffiths retires after 20 years at the Infants' school.

1967: In June at the Infants' there's 'Audiometric Testing of children in their first year at school' and one of the teachers visits Penybryn Infants' to see the 'Nuffield Scheme' at work.

1968: In March all the teachers at the Infants' see a 'Nuffield Mathematics Film'. In April Miss Singer retires as Head of the Juniors' and is replaced by Mr. Haydn Harris. In September many children from both the Infants' and the Juniors' are transferred to the new Llanederyn schools.

1969: In February the 4th year children at the Juniors' begin their 'Crash Course' in swimming at Guilford Crescent Baths and in March they see 'a film on North Sea Natural Gas'. In June 77 Junior children go to the Dan Yr Ogof Caves and ten Juniors go for a week's Welsh language Course at Llangrannog. Also in June all the children have a day off to celebrate the Investiture of Prince Charles as the Prince of Wales and they are all presented with a souvenir mug to mark the occasion. In November the children in the Infants' collect toys and books to raise money for the School and there's a half-day strike by teachers in the NUT.

1970: At the end of January the schools close for a week because of a strike by the NUT. In April the cost of School Meals goes up from 1/6 to 1/9. In June carpenters erect Display Panels in the classrooms and Corridor of the Infants' and in July Miss Eira Griffiths retires from the Infants' after 24 years at the school. In November work starts on installing inside toilets at the Infants' and the Headmaster of the Juniors' attends the Teachers' Centre to join a working party on School Reports.

1971: In January when the Infants' re-opens the workmen are still working on the inside toilets and others are busy in the playground demolishing the Air Raid shelters built in 1940. In February when the schools return after the half-term holiday the Heating System isn't working and they have to send the children home. In March the 4th Year pupils in the Juniors' begin their five week 'crash

course' of swimming at Guilford Crescent Baths and the Infants' is told that next year's Capitation will be £3 per child, but it is reduced by an 8th in April. In May the new inside toilets and cloakrooms open in the Infants' and in July the parents there organise a 'very successful 'Bring and Buy' sale' which raises £120 for school funds. In October the Infants' has its first Harvest Festival and the Caretaker leaves as he is going to Malta to live. In November the entire Junior school walks to Eastern Avenue, next to Weddel Road, to see the Queen's motorcade passing for the Official Opening of the By-Pass and Heath Hospital.

1972: At the end of January the schools have to close as there's no coal because of the Miners' Strike. Three weeks later when they re-open only 60 children turn up at the Infants' and 159 at the Juniors'. In April blackboards are fixed to the classroom walls in the Infants' and 18 top juniors leave for a 10 day cruise of Norway and Holland. In June the Head of the Infants' records 'Workmen started repairing the classroom-hut in the playground. The hut is in a deplorable condition and a letter has been sent to the Director informing him of the state of the building. A request for a new building is being considered'. At the Juniors' staff and children are photographed and, after three postponements because of the weather, they finally get to hold their school sports. In July at the Infants' a Music Workshop is held for 40 teachers and children from the top two classes give demonstrations. In October four Post Graduate students from Cyncoed spend a day in the Juniors'. In November the schools close for the day to mark the Queen's Silver Wedding. In December the Juniors' stage the Operetta 'The Marquis of Carabus'.

1973: In March at the Juniors' the gym and corridor are painted and the 'first broadcast of Radio Roath Park took place today'. At the end of the month the Head visits the Education Office to discuss plans for the new Assembly Hall. In May, while the Junior school Sports are being held the staffroom there is vandalised. In June an 'Old Boys' reunion is held and 22 past pupils attend. One had left the school in 1902. In July, after managing to raise £250 the Infants' gets a Colour TV.

1974: The Operetta 'Castle Capers' is performed at the United Reformed Church Hall in Penywaun Road by the Juniors'. In February the schools' heating system breaks down again and Mrs. Audrey Whiteaker leaves after 20 years at the Juniors' to become the Deputy Head at Radnor Road Infants' school. At the Infants' in April 'A successful Easter Bonnet Parade was held at the school. The children paraded in their Easter hats...and Easter Eggs were distributed to all the children'. At the Juniors' Radio Roath Park was on the air again. In May the Infants' spend £100 on a Tropical Fish Aquarium for the Corridor.

1975: In January the heating starts to play up again and at the start of February it breaks down completely. At the Juniors' there is no school at all for 3 weeks and then some classes start part-time lessons at Albany and Gladstone Juniors'. The Infants' remains closed for 5 weeks until they start to heat the Canteen to teach

each class on a rota basis. Ten days later this has to be abandoned when the gas in the Canteen has to be turned off. Finally, in the middle of April, space heaters are installed in the classrooms and corridors and the schools re-open. The next day the new Assembly Hall at the Juniors' is used for the very first time. In July the 3rd Old Boys reunion takes place and at the Infants' Miss Betty Jenkins retires after 25 years at the school and they raise £144 for PE equipment. In October a Police Sergeant calls to discuss the parking difficulties outside the school. 'Parents park outside the gates on the yellow lines causing great confusion and danger'.

1976: In January they start teaching 'Oral Welsh' daily for 15 minutes in the top two classes of the Infants'. In April Electricians rewire the schools. A PE Climbing Frame is installed at the Infants' and they raise over £53 for 'Help the Aged'. In May decorators begin painting the exterior of the schools. In July the Juniors' Cricket Team loses the cup final to Eglwys Newydd.

1977: In February one of the boys in the Infants' runs through the barrier outside the school gate and is hit by a car. Thankfully 'there was no real injury'. In March the Juniors' 16-girl Gymnastics Team wins the South Glamorgan Urdd Finals at Cowbridge. In June all the children are presented with Silver Crowns to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee and there's a 'Sponsored Silence' at the Infants' for 'Help the Aged'.

[The Infants' Log Books after this date have disappeared]

In December the Junior school puts on a pantomime, Cinderella, and there's a Fancy Dress Parade.

1978: In February the school is closed for three days because of 'blizzard conditions'. In June, at the Welsh Schools Cricket Trials at Llanidloes, Mark Walker is selected to play for Wales. In December 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' is performed for the parents.

1979: In January Mr. V. Noel joins the staff as Deputy Headteacher and the school closes for the day because of the Caretakers' strike.