

July



1955

MAGAZINE

OF THE

WICKFORD COUNTY

JUNIOR SCHOOL



The school magazine is fast becoming a tradition of this school. We think it is a good tradition because it seeks to promote one of the most important activities of any school in this country, the writing and reading of good English. We regard good speech as an important part of the children's training, so we have activities such as the Speech Festival and the School Play. The School Magazine provides the main opportunity for the children to present written work to the public, and so they strive to reach satisfactory standards, worthy of public presentation.

This year, a Magazine Committee, consisting of six children and one member of staff, has been on the lookout all the year for suitable pieces for the Magazine. These children have had the task of criticising intelligently and exercising judgment on the work submitted. For them, it has been a valuable experience. The final decision in all matters of selection, however, lay with the member of staff concerned.

As we have stated previously, the work printed here was written by the children as part of their normal school work and, apart from amended punctuation and spelling, it is exactly as the children wrote it.

Finally, we would like to thank all the parents and friends who have supported this venture so well in previous years. We hope that such support will be continued so as to make this not only an educational, but a financial success as well.



THE SCHOOL YEAR

The main events of this year have been the Nativity Play, the Carol Concert and the Speech Festival.

The Nativity Play was called "The Christmas Star". Sheila Self and Jeremy Cole played the leading parts.

The Choir and Recorder Group have been working hard, right through the year. On two evenings, just before Christmas, they gave the Carol Concert in the school hall, and on April 30th they took part in a concert at Maldon. Since then they have been preparing for the Divisional Music Festival which takes place in July.

The Speech Festival, which was held on March 11th and 12th, was the first arranged by this school. Miss Neve, the County Drama Adviser, was adjudicator.

The netball team has been successful this year in winning the shield in the South East Essex Competition.

Although the football team have not been quite so successful this year, they have had many a good game.

This year each house chose captains and vice-captains who have acted as prefects. Those elected were — Drake: Sandra Best and Robert Mayes. Vice-Captains: Sheila Self and Terence Chandler. Nelson: Geoffrey Hiscox and myself. Vice-Captains: Carole Gardner and Donald Evans. Raleigh. Valerie Burgess and Jeremy Cole. Vice-Captains: Christine Newall and Denis Wakerly. Scott: Sandra Flexman and Peter Peirce. Vice-Captains: Kathleen Weeks and Brian Tilson.

Later on I was appointed School Captain.

I would like to thank Mr. Cole and the staff for all they have done to help us during the time we have been in the school.

JANICE NEWNUM, 4A

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PETS

I have two goldfish. Every morning I put my finger into the water and they bite my finger. This morning I went and fed them and they were chasing one another round the bowl. There is a boy and a girl. My goldfish blow bubbles. They have races to the other end of the bowl. Their names are Sambo and Mopsy. I feed my fish every morning. My fish poke their noses out of the top of the water. When I feed them they come up and have a bite and dive down and hit their noses on the bottom of the bowl. My fish don't bite other people's hands.

JACQUELINE ABBS, 2B

THE FOOTBALL TEAM

During the past season our football team hasn't been very successful. We have lost seven games, won two and drawn one.

Our captain is Denis Wakerley, who plays at centre half. Two of our players were in the South East Essex team, Billy Oldham, the right back, and Brian Tilson, our centre forward. Derek Richardson was reserve goalkeeper.

When we entered for the Benfleet Shield we played at Pitsea and lost by three goals to nil. The only team we have beaten is Rochford. The first time we beat them by four goals to nil and the second time we won by three goals to one.

The most exciting game was against Rochford, the first time we played them, because most of the team were in good form. We were leading in the first half after a clever run downfield by Tilson. Beckett scored the first goal in the second half after beating three defenders. Soon afterwards Beckett scored again and the last goal came from Tilson.

After each home game Mrs. Horsman and helpers from the fourth year serve us refreshments, and the football team would like to thank these people very much for their kindness.

DONALD EVANS & DENIS WAKERLEY, 4A

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THE RECORDER GROUP.

Our recorder group is very well known in South East Essex and many people have heard us play.

Children start to play when they are in the second year and after a while are allowed to join in with the third and fourth years in assembly. Each year the descant recorders go to the Music Festival at Leigh. Last year when we went, one of the officials was so pleased with the playing that he suggested we introduce treble and tenor recorders. An attempt was made to purchase them but it was found that they were made in Germany so we had to wait a long time before they came. Now we have received three tenor recorders. After a lot of practice three people have learnt to play them. Also, as well as playing the tenor recorders, all three each play descant recorders. Later on some treble recorders came and they were distributed among some 3A girls. Now all these three kinds of recorders are played in assembly and it is most effective. Each year the school holds two recorder and choir concerts. Also we are sometimes asked to play in other people's concerts. In March, we went to Billericay for a recorder concert. We won this competition and we went to a "winner's" concert some weeks later. In April 1954 we went to Colchester with the choir to sing and play at a teachers' refresher course. In July there was the summer concert at the school. The next concert was the Christmas concert at school. That was very successful. That was the first concert in which the present 3A took part. Then in April 1955 we went to Maldon with the choir to perform there.

G. HISCOX & J. COLE, 4A.

THE NETBALL TEAM

When we first moved up into 4A, Mrs. Thompson watched the netball practices to pick seven girls for the school netball team. When they had been chosen, the first match was against Pitsea, which we won.

One of the following matches was played against Tilbury, away, which, I am sorry to say, we lost 9-6. After the match we were given refreshments.

We also played a match against Vange. The half time score was 7-20 to us. During the second half they pulled up well but we still won by 36 goals to 13. The last match we played away, was at Brentwood. At half time it seemed as though we would lose because the score was 8-7. Towards the end of the second half the score remained 14-14 and just as the final whistle blew they scored another goal to win the match 15-14. After the match their girls accompanied us up to the school's canteen where we had sandwiches, cakes and orangeade to drink.

On the last day before we broke up for the Easter holidays the netball team had a match against the staff. The score was 17-14 to the staff.

Every year our school team plays in the South East Essex Netball Rally for the netball shield. It was presented by Pitsea in 1953, but it has only been competed for during the past two years, and Wickford have won it both times. This year the girls playing were, captain, Carole Gardner, Jean Stevens, Betty Bowhay, Betty Smith, Anne Sage, Christine Newell and Maureen Wagstaff. All the winning team get silver medals. On behalf of the netball team we would like to thank Mrs. Horsman and the girls who help to do the refreshments when we play at home.

SANDRA BEST AND CAROLE GARDNER, 4A

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SATURDAY AFTERNOONS

I like to spend my Saturday afternoons going for a walk. One sunny afternoon I started off. I went down a little lane, where tall trees spread their leafy branches over the roadway. Their shadows made dancing patterns. As I passed the waterfall I heard the splashing and gurgling as it turned into a foamy pool. As I neared the farmhouse I remembered that the farmer's wife had picked some apples for my mother. I called in at the farm house and told the farmer's wife that my mother would fetch them herself.

I started on my walk again. I did not wish to stop any more. I came to a field where a stream ran splashing and bubbling over the stones. I passed a gypsy caravan, when a dirty little girl came out and asked me if I had any money. I said "No" and turned and ran away. I ran through Spider Lane and Golden Meadow. I flopped down on the grass exhausted. I got home at last and had my tea, and told my mother all about my walk. She said that she had gone to get the apples. After tea I went to bed and soon afterwards fell asleep. So my day ended happily.

HILARY SKINGLE, 4A

THE SCHOOL CHOIR

It is a very great honour to be a member of the Wickford County Junior School Choir, but it means a great deal of hard work in preparing for concerts.

When a child is in the third year, Miss Mobbs listens to each in turn and then writes down the names of the children who are good enough for the choir.

The first concert of the year, which is the Christmas concert, is held in the hall at our school. There is also a concert in the summer.

The schools in South East Essex take part in a Festival at Leigh. The conductor for the massed concert is Dr. Swinburne who writes his remarks about us at the end of the auditions.

The latest visit we went on was to Maldon, where we had six encores. The audience liked the negro spirituals best, because of the syncopation.

At the Festival this year we are to sing "Skippets the Bad One" by Mr. Donald Ford. In our own songs at the Festival we will include "The Faery Song" from the opera "The Immortal Hour". This year some of the Choir will be singing in the Massed Concert conducted by Dr. Swinburne.

At our last concert we were congratulated by Mr. Manns, the S.E. Essex Education officer.

We will hold our last concert this summer and although we all enjoy it, we are very sad because this will be 4A's last concert before leaving the school.

SANDRA FLEXMAN & JANICE NEWNUM, 4A.

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THE SPEECH FESTIVAL.

This is the very first time this school has had a Speech Festival. Each class recited poems in groups. After the group poems some of the children in each class gave individual recitations. There were too many children for one afternoon and so the first and second years recited one afternoon, and the third and fourth years recited the next afternoon.

At the end Miss Neve presented the certificates, either A, B, or C. She said she was very pleased and then Janice Newnum, our school captain, gave Miss Neve some flowers on behalf of the whole school.

As there was not time for Miss Neve to hear all the children, she said that she would come back later on in the year to hear the others.

FRANK NICHOLS, 4A

THE NIGHT THE TROUBLE BEGAN

On Saturday my mother told me to look after the baby and the puppy while she went to town. For about half an hour all went well but after that the trouble began. I found the baby missing.

He is three years old and is very fast on his legs. I looked everywhere but I could not find him. I was just beginning to get worried when I heard a noise in the parlour. When I opened the door there was baby sitting in the parlour.

There was bread in the butter dish and margarine all over the walls. A bag of currants was gone and a bottle of milk broken all over the floor.

"Oh! you naughty baby," I said.

But he only laughed. After I had tidied it up I went back to the oven where I was cooking the meat and to my surprise half of the meat had gone. When I looked around the puppy was finishing it off. I chased him all round the house. When I caught him I gave him a good smack. When I looked around again there was the baby throwing knives and forks at the window. When I had stopped him there was a knock at the door. I opened the door and the puppy jumped up at the man and bit a piece off his trousers.

It was the rent man and he had come for the rent. I told him that I was sorry and that mummy had gone to town.

He went away angrily. "You naughty puppy," I cried and hit him hard. Then I saw the baby sliding down the banisters. I just got there in time to save him from a nasty bump.

Then mummy came home and when she saw the mess I was in, she just stood there and laughed. She said, "In future I'll mind the baby and you go shopping."

WILLIAM BECKETT, 4B

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AUTUMN DIARY

The frost lay heavily on the ground and the roofs of the houses were also covered by a fine layer.

The sun shone warm and bright, gradually dispersing the frozen earth into tiny rivulets of water.

The streets were bristling with people, men on their way to work, women with young children, some quite happy and others fretful. The window cleaner was busy cleaning the shop windows as I passed by on my way to school.

The trees hung their naked arms high above us, and the leaves lay scattered all about us like a Persian carpet.

EILEEN SALMONS, 3A

BEN AND THE GIANT

One day many, many years ago there was a giant that lived in the hills. He was a wicked giant. He used to go down to the village and take some of the best men. There was a man named Ben who was a very good archer. "I will kill the giant with my crossbow," he thought. So he set out to the hills where the giant lived. It was a very steep and winding road. The giant saw him coming. He picked up a huge boulder and hurled it, but Ben was too quick for him and he fired an arrow which pierced the giant's body and he fell down dead. Peace was restored in the village again.

DAVID WILLIAMSON, 2B

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I SAW A WHALE

One day in the holidays I went to Southend. When I got there, I went to see the giant whale, Jonah, which was caught on the coast of Norway. As soon as I went near her, I noticed a peculiar smell which was the acid to preserve her. She is 65 feet long and weighs 69 tons.

The whale has a very small eye and small ears. The famous spout of the whale is not really water but the air blown out by the whale and the cold turns it into water.

The bull whale never deserts the cow whale, but if the bull whale is hurt, the cow flees. A whale increases in weight 220 lbs a day and grows two inches a day. He only grows for two years and then is fully grown.

Strangely enough, the whale can only feed on very small animals.

SHEILA REES, 2A

A STORY ABOUT MY BUDGERIGAR

My budgerigar's name is Joey. He is very tame. We had him a year ago and he nearly got out of his cage the first day we had him. He makes us laugh at the funny things he does. One night when we were sitting around the fire he landed on my dad. My dad said, "Come on Joey," so Joey jumped down from my dad's shoulder on to his cigarette and knocked it out of his mouth. He flew down to the place where it fell, and pecked holes in it. My mum, sister and I all laughed but my dad was cross.

D. HUNTLEY, 2A

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WINTER DIARY

Yesterday I made a snowman. I started to make his body with a little piece of snow. I rolled it over. It made a pattern on our lawn. It also gathered snow and made a great big snowball. Then I shaped it with a spade. Next I rolled a little head. I added stones for eyes, nose, mouth, and buttons for a coat. Next I went in my house for an old beret of mine, a scarf and my father's pipe. Then I dressed him. When I went to bed, I brought them in. I thought the snow might melt and the things get blown away.

ALAN THOMSON, 1A

AN INTERESTING VISIT TO LONDON.

On the ninth of May, thirty children from 4A went on a visit in which I was included. The weather did not look very promising but as we went along the Arterial Road, it brightened up a bit and the sun shone brightly for the rest of the day. Miss Hodges and Mr. Londesborough were taking us to an Art exhibition.

As we came to the outskirts of London everyone started getting excited. Soon the coach stopped at our destination which was the Guildhall. This was where we were going to see the exhibition. The paintings were by people from 3 to 17 years of age and there were some very good pictures. There was one particularly good picture of some trees by an eleven year old. After we had been upstairs we went downstairs and had a look at the other pictures, which were by older children. There were many really good ones downstairs. There was one that I thought exceptionally good of a woodman's workshop. I found the exhibition very interesting.

Then Mr. Londesborough and Miss Hodges took us to the embankment to have our dinner. Everyone took sandwiches to eat and a bottle of drink. After we had had our dinner we went to have a look round St. Paul's Cathedral. After a while we went up a long staircase to the Whispering Gallery after paying the admission fee of 6d. When we got there we were to put our left ear to the wall. Then a man whispered the History of St. Paul's to us. The old St. Paul's was burnt down in the Fire of London. Then we went up another winding staircase and after a while came to the Stone Gallery, from which we had a lovely view. Then we found out that it was time to go home so we went outside where the coach was waiting for us. We had a very pleasant journey home.

PETER PEIRCE, 4A.

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SUMMER DIARY

When I got home I put my sandals away and put my old shoes on. Afterwards I looked for some string and a piece of cardboard to do some weaving. When I had done a little, my brother asked me to help him toss the hay, so I got my favourite stick of white poplar wood and ran down to the bottom of the garden. When we had finished I had an idea. Why could we not put what was left of the tadpoles (because a stray cat had had them) into the bucket, and use the bath for a manger to put the grass cuttings in, to feed our imaginary cattle? My brother agreed, so we bailed out some of the water and took the stones out. Then my brother got the bath and tipped that which was left and the weed and tadpoles in with such a flourish that I'm a Dutchman if some of the tadpoles were not knocked nearly crazy with the force.

CATHERINE FEAR, 3A

HISTORY VISITS.

During this year we have tried to learn as much as we could about Wickford and Essex. Our first visit was to an exhibition of Highways and Byways of Essex at Ingatestone Hall.

Ingatestone Hall is a very old building. The oldest part was pulled down and the rest was built by Lord Petre.

Mr. Skinner took us round the exhibition and explained the details to us. After we had been round once, we ate our sandwiches and Mr. Jolly gave us leave to play on the grass outside.

After our lunch we had to answer a quiz in connection with the Exhibition we had seen in the morning. In the Great Hall we saw a great number of seals for letters. There were also many portraits of the Petres. We were told that the bloodstained cravat, which Lord Derwentwater wore when he was executed was locked up. During the afternoon Mr. Skinner gave us a talk on heraldry and showed us the family tree of the Petres.

Our second visit was to the Keil Kraft Factory. We went to the saw mill first. We saw the huge vacuum which extracts the dust from each saw. In the workshops we saw how the propellers are made. We were shown the exports which were going to Jamaica, Trinidad and Durban. We found the showroom most interesting as all the finished models were displayed there.

After we had been round the factory, Mr. Keil very kindly provided us with refreshments. Before we left Mr. Jolly was given a model plane which was to be presented to the writer of the best essay on the visit.

We hope to have one or two more visits which will, I hope, help us to understand Wickford's history.

R. MAYES, 4A.

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MY PET GOAT

I've had her ever since she was 10 weeks old. She is now a big goat. I call her Bamby. She is all white. Three weeks ago I went to feed her before I went to school, and what do you think I found? Two little baby goats, both white like their mummy. One a boy and one a girl, but the boy was very weak and he died two days later. Daddy buried him in the garden and I put flowers on his grave. We still have the little girl goat. I call her Mitzi. She's full of mischief now, and jumps on daddy's sheds and chases the hens and tries to buck my little brother as he always teases her.

JOAN SMITH, 2C

THE MAGIC MUSHROOM

I was walking in the woods when I saw something lying on the ground. It was a mushroom. I picked it up and saw it had red spots on and it had a little door in the stalk. It was so small that I could hardly see it. Then I turned it over and I saw a message on the bottom. It said, "If you look at the red spots you will find that it is designed with the magic word. Then you say the magic word and the door will open and a little dwarf will come out and grant you three wishes." So I looked at the red spots and they looked like, "Gilly, Gilly." So I said "Gilly, Gilly" and the door opened and a dwarf came and asked me what three wishes I wanted. So I said, "I wish I had a pony." Just then a little pony came trotting along. Then I said, "I wish I had a little trap for it," and a trap dropped from a tree and landed behind the pony. I thought for a moment and then I said "I'd better have a saddle and bridle." So I wished for a saddle and bridle. Then a saddle came flying through the air and landed on the horse. Just then I blinked and yawned and I looked around and I could not see the magic mushroom at all. I went home thinking it all must have been a dream.

DAVID MAYSTON, 1A

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AMBITIONS

MY FAVOURITE LESSON

My favourite lesson is History. I like to find out about cave-men, and what sort of animals they had in those days. When I am grown up I am going to be an archaeologist, and go to Poland and find historic bones of animals. I will go down in the caves and find paintings on the walls, and I will go to Rome and find Roman battle-axes and swords and helmets. Then I will go down under the sea and find sunken galleons with treasures on the deck and I will bring up the cannons from the ships and I will go and get all the historic things I can. Especially bones of cave-men.

RODNEY SHARP, 3B

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WHEN I GROW UP

When I grow up, I am going to be a builder because I like building. I sometimes go to work with my father and brother. I am the tea boy or the odd job boy. I have already built a shed. I have started to make a dog kennel now. Next week I am going to work with my father. He is going to start to build a semi-detached house and it is three storeys high. When I grow up I am going to build six storeys high. I will build them six at a time.

RALPH GREENHAM, 3B

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

One of the most interesting places which I think every boy should visit is the Science Museum, Kensington. A catalogue can be purchased and that alone is most interesting. It explains most things and shows the photographs of some exhibits. Postcards also are on sale.

The latest scientific instruments are all exhibited. Amongst the many interesting and fascinating things is the actual bathyscaphe that Piccard used. Inside it there are many controls. Also, Stephenson's Rocket can be seen and the Puffing Billy. One extremely interesting exhibit is the Oxford and Cambridge boats of many years ago. These were much longer and heavier than the present day boats.

Another fascinating thing, which mainly interests children, is a burglar alarm. This is an invisible ray between two posts and as people walk through, they break the ray and the bell rings. One similar thing is breaking two rays and the door opens. This is designed for waitresses.

Another section of this museum is the Aeronautic section. This deals with old and modern aeroplanes. It is in a separate building. The Wright brothers' plane is one of the old planes. It is amazing to see the number of old machines so well preserved. Some of the smaller present day planes are hanging up. As the bigger planes could not fit in the room their engines are there instead.

Those are only a few of the many interesting things at the Science Museum but one could spend many days at the various sections.

JEREMY COLE, 4A

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THE PLACE I LIKE BEST

I like to go with my brother to the woods and get some bluebells and other flowers. I love the woods, I go there nearly every month.

Last time I went there I got lost and Sambo, the little dog, got me out. On Sunday we went to the woods to get some earth for daddy. It was very nice but we had to come home very soon. When my uncle comes with me I have some fun. We have a game of "Hide and Seek" and we play "Broken bottles" and Sambo runs in between us.

I like the woods very much. It is very pretty there and I love to hear the birds sing and I love to have a long rest, and sleep for a little while. I love to explore the holes and the trees. I love to take my little sister to the woods and play with her. I climb the trees. I have a lot of fun. I make a big pile of leaves and I lie down on them and have something to eat and drink. When my little sister is older I shall take her to the woods on our bicycle. It is a long way but it is an interesting ride. I get some very nice flowers for mummy.

MARION LETCH, 3B

THE MAGIC BOX

I was looking for my pennies on the lawn when a flower opened and closed. I looked behind it and I saw a little elf. It ran to a trap door. I found it was big enough for me to go through. I went through and found I was on some stairs in a hollow tree. I looked around and saw a door. I went through and found myself in the wood. I looked at a tree and saw a box. I went over to it and saw a label on it. It said, "Rub me on the bark of this tree." I did so and then put it down. The lid opened slowly and a little man stepped out. "You may have three wishes," he said. "What is your wish?" "May I really have three wishes?" I said. "Yes, of course," he said. So I wished for a horse, and just as I said it, I heard a horse clip-clopping behind me. I wished that when I went back to school I had the leader badge. I wished that I could find my pennies. "It will be as you wish," he said. So I rode home on my pony and I did find my pennies and I did win the leader badge, so it was all true.

HARRIET CHAPMAN, 1A

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MY JOURNEY TO SCOTLAND

We started on our holiday this way. After we had packed our luggage, we got into a taxi and went to Rayleigh Station, and caught a train to Shenfield. We had to wait a little while before the train came, and it took us all the way to London.

Then we got another taxi to Victoria Coach Station and we got on the coach for a 15½ hour journey. After we had settled down we had a sleep, and after we had a sleep we had breakfast at a hotel near the Cheviots.

After that we got on the coach again and when we were near Edinburgh, we watched the countryside. There were lots of rabbits there. When we got to Edinburgh, we got off the coach and lined up on the Glasgow coach queue. There we caught the coach to Glasgow, and we saw lots of quarries on the way. We also saw the Forth Bridge. When we got to Glasgow, we caught a bus to Balloch with our luggage. On the way to Balloch we saw the Clyde. Also we saw three shipyards. When we got to Balloch we had to wait a little while before Uncle's car came, and that took us to Arden.

Then we walked to the landing stage where Uncle Tom had his boat. We all stepped into the boat safely.

After we had all sat down, we watched the scenery. Gradually the boat reached the island, and when we got to the landing-stage we all saw the words "Inch Murrin", painted on a board. We met Mrs. Scott and talked to her on the way to our house on the island. Our house was called "Luck Scor", and in this house we had the most wonderful holiday we have ever had.

CHRISTOPHER JOLLY, 2A

THE HUNTED FOX

I crept up to the hen roost with an evil intention in my heart. I leapt upon the back of a fine cock, and killed him with a blow. Dragging him out of the roost, I set about making a meal of him a long way from the hen roost. Suddenly I heard a hunting horn. I was overcome with fear as the horn sounded again, and a voice cried "Tally ho." Leaving the remains of the cock soaking the grass with its blood, I leapt over the ground, then broke into a run. The hounds picked up my scent, and ran after me. Six of them were near me. One of them called Barefoot broke the leash and leapt at me. She was too late. I buried my fangs in her throat, and with a cry of fear, she dropped dead at my feet. I tore over the meadow, and away round the hedge. When I looked back the hounds were gone. I had escaped!

AUSTIN JOHNSON, 4A

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UNCLE PETER

One Friday Uncle Peter came to visit us. He is very rich. He came in his new car and promised to take us out on Saturday. As it was my birthday, I was allowed to choose the place. I asked to go for a tour round the countryside in the lovely red car. We packed the food in a hamper and we were ready. There was an argument about getting places in the car, as usual. My brother wanted to sit next to Uncle Peter and so did my sister, so they both sat next to him. I sat by the window. We set off.

A lot of adventure was had. We saw a horse in a field and the farmer let us have a ride. Some of the rivers we went past were very big and had very fast currents. Soon we stopped to have dinner. "Oh! what a lovely smell of baked beans and bacon!!"

After dinner we pressed on. Tea time soon came, we had many nice cakes and tarts. After tea we went home and we had a puncture on the way. I helped to mend it. Soon we got home, very tired, and sleepy, and glad to get home as it was ten o'clock at night. We said "Thank you, Uncle Peter," and went to bed.

BRENDA DENISON, 4B

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MY GARDEN

Mummy and Daddy let me have a garden of my very own. Barry, my brother, went to the woods and got me two bluebells. They had a little bulb underneath. On the compost heap I found a daffodil and another flower and I planted them and I watered them. I am going to have half flowers and half vegetables.

LINDA STEAN, 1B

HOW TO WIN AN ELECTION — OR LOSE IT!

Extracts from the School Election Speeches

"I shall not be satisfied until we are all given a choice of either ice-cream or milk-shakes instead of morning milk."

"As for school visits, I think it is a wonderful way of learning. If possible, funds could be raised to buy a school coach so that more visits could be made."

"This is a good school and we are all proud to belong to it. It is good to be able to wear the school uniform . . . but I look forward to the time when we can wear nylon blouses and shirts and terylene skirts and blazers. This will be real progress."
JANICE NEWNUM

"School dinners are good on the whole, but we would like a little more variety. For instance, if we had jelly or trifle or junkets sometimes it would make a nice change."
SANDRA FLEXMAN

"I would like to see Arithmetic lessons shortened and Physical Training lessons lengthened."
TERRY CHANDLER

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THE COUNTRYSIDE IN AUTUMN

On a walk in the countryside in Autumn you may see some very interesting and beautiful things. I went in search of these things down a country lane enclosed on all sides by trees and bushes. The golden-brown and yellow leaves fluttered to the ground and littered the dark green grass. The wind blew softly through the trees and made soft rustling music. The golden-brown and yellow of the leaves mingling with the green of the grass and brown of the tree trunks made a very beautiful scene. The rooks flew in flocks across the sky making a deep, melodious "caw".

The plodding of the horse pulling the plough was kept up continuously for hours. The crows flew behind the plough picking up worms. The finches, sparrows, robins and starlings still twittered in the trees, but the swallows and martins were migrating to warmer lands. Acorns lay strewn on the grass beneath the great oak trees. Horse chestnuts lay under the picturesque parent tree. The berries were ripe and juicy and the black-berry and deadly nightshades hung everywhere.

The butterflies were gone but a few lingered in the hedgerow. Some trees were bare already but some still had yellow leaves clinging to their branches. Soon all the leaves would go, the grass would disappear beneath the snow and winter would set in, leaving behind it the beautiful countryside of Autumn.

T. CHANDLER, 4A

THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

The School holidays are set out below for the information of parents :

Inclusive Dates

Summer — 27th July, to 4th September, 1955
Half Term — 22nd October to 30th October, 1955
Christmas — 21st Dec., 1955, to 3rd January, 1956
Easter — 29th March to 15th April, 1956
Whitsun — 19th May to 27th May, 1956
Summer 1956 — 27th July to 4th September, 1956

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My Version of "THREE MEN IN A BOAT"

One afternoon, George, lounging on a deck chair with Harris and I on either side of him, said suddenly, "Say, what about a spot of painting on shore?" Harris jumped up and exclaimed excitedly, "Why yes, its my favourite hobby. Oh, its going to be fun." Then he jumped again, and, I'm sorry to say, he landed in the water. This however did not dampen his spirits. As he struck out for the shore he made up this rhyme:

"Oh dear, dear me,
We're going on a spree,
There's all of us three,
George, Jay and me."

It was one of those rhymes that go with any tune.

Harris towed the punt on to the bank and tied the mooring rope to a bollard.

Very soon we had settled down and the afternoon was passing quite peacefully when Montmorency suddenly ran between Harris's legs and upset his stool. Harris, cursing the mischievous dog, fell on to his painting. His face was covered with beautiful hues of colour: green, yellow, red and blue. His hands, covered in blue, seemed as if they had been put there to contrast with his face. He had a paintbrush sticking in his left ear. "Hah," he muttered as best he could, "I'm not going to do any more painting today. I'm going for a swim." Well, we packed up our things and followed his example.

J. CRUICKSHANK, 3A

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THE BIRD SCARER

Next to our garden we have some fields where a farmer has sown peas. These peas are grown for canning and if you eat them they are very bitter, but when they are canned they put sugar with them. Although the peas are bitter the pigeons still come after them and to frighten them away they have a bird scarer. It goes off every fifteen minutes with a big bang and all the birds fly away.

BERYL WALLACE 2B

THE MAGIC CHERRY TREE

Once upon a time there was a little girl whose mother was dead. Her father had married a wicked lady. The girl's name was Marigold. Her stepmother made her do all the hard work in the house. Sometimes her father brought her something to eat because her stepmother only gave her one piece of bread and butter. One night Marigold's father came to her room and gave her a cherry pie. When she had eaten it she found a cherry stone in it. Then a voice from the cherry stone said, "Marigold, if you put me in the ground I will grow into a tree." So in the morning she put the cherry stone in the ground and waited to see if it would grow. In the afternoon she looked out of the window and there was a tree.

Suddenly a voice said, "You can have one wish," and Marigold said, "I wish I had a beautiful dress," and then she saw a lovely dress on the bed. It was made of white and red roses. She looked lovely in it. She put it in her wardrobe.

A week later she heard the Prince was to come to the village. So she got out her dress and put it on. Then she went downstairs to the garden gate. When she got there her stepmother was at the gate, but when she saw her in the dress she was jealous. She said, "Where did you get that dress?" "From my cherry tree." Then the Prince came and he put her on his horse and went away.

ANNE HOUMSOME, 2B

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THE ELECTION.

The three top classes of the school 4A, 4B and 3A had a mock Election on the same day as the General Election. There were three candidates: Terence Chandler standing for the Republican party, Sandra Flexman standing for the Democratic party, and Janice Newnum standing for the Progressive party.

On the day that the Election was held, each candidate was introduced by a chairman and then gave a speech. The person who made the best speech (or the one each child thought was best) was voted for. Some children were chosen to count the votes, and others acted as polling clerks.

In Sandra Flexman's speech she spoke about improving school dinners, and how she thought that the arithmetic lessons should be shortened though she had no grudge against arithmetic. Terence Chandler, thought that sports time should be lengthened and there should be more games. Janice Newnum thought that milk shakes or ice-cream should be given out instead of milk, and that a swimming pool should be built.

In the evening the votes were counted and it was found that twenty-seven people had voted for Chandler, twenty-eight for Flexman, and seventy-seven for Newnum. There were two spoilt papers, and Janice Newnum had beaten the next candidate by nearly fifty votes. It was a very good Election, and three cheers were given to all the candidates because they had given such good speeches.

A. JOHNSON, 4A.

IN A RUSSIAN FOREST

I was in the midst of a dark forest, with thick snow on the ground, riding on a sledge with a fast horse pulling it, when a hungry wolf came speeding after me. I laid myself flat on the sledge and let the horse run for its life, but the wolf was swifter and flung itself at the horse. Quickly the horse held out his leg and the wolf swallowed it. In anger, the horse revolved its leg speedily. When the wolf was giddy, the horse revolved its leg the other way, forming a sort of helicopter. Seeing my chance of getting a lift home, I jumped on to the horse's back, and went up and into the sky.

All of a sudden the horse's leg stopped revolving and all three of us fell but luckily enough, a cloud was in the way, and it was like falling on a pillow.

Although I landed on this it didn't help, for my weight exploded it. I took in lots of air and made myself like a balloon.

Below me there was a field in which grew corn. Out rushed all the air that I had in my body. I landed softly. I picked a bundle of corn and off home I went, chuckling to myself.

JOHN BARCLAY, 3A

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THE P.T.A.

The Parent-Teacher Association, now in its tenth year, continues to foster good relations and understanding between the teaching staff and the parents for the benefit of the children.

Speakers at the five meetings which have been held during the school year were: —

Mr. R. E. Cole (Headmaster) on "Duties of Parents" and "School Funds" (at the AGM),

Miss D. Brown (Headmistress of Brentwood County High School for Girls) on "Work of a Grammar School",

Mr. F. G. Manns (Divisional Education Officer) on "County Education Committee's Education Programme",

Mr. M. Blanch (exchange teacher from New South Wales at present at Rochford County Primary School) — an illustrated talk on "School life in Australia".

The attendance at the meetings has not been as high and as keen as would be expected. The Association can co-operate closely with the teaching staff (and vice-versa) by discussion, by supporting, by rendering financial assistance to school funds, music festivals, speech and choir festivals, sports meetings, and carol concerts.

School holidays and functions have made it difficult to organise more Association meetings, but, nevertheless, please do not hesitate to suggest the type of meetings you would like and the speakers.

J. MAYSTON, Secretary.

SCHOOL FUNDS

First, what is the aim of having a school fund at all? Both you as parents and we as teachers have a duty to the children to ensure that they receive the best education and training it is possible to give. This we cannot do unless we have a fund available from which to finance the many extra activities we undertake, yet the school would be a much poorer place without them. Let me list just some of the ways in which the School Fund is used:—

1. Every project which we undertake over and above the normal school work needs money before even a start can be made. For instance, the Pageant in 1953, in which every child took part, cost some £50. Most of this money was recovered by the sale of tickets but most of the expenses had to be met before the ticket money was received. If there had been no School Fund, there would have been no Pageant. The same applies to every concert, Nativity Play, Speech Festival or display that we produce. Would the school be the same without them?

2. From our School Fund we pay the travelling expenses of all our sports teams and the entertainment of visiting teams.

3. We aim at encouraging every child to give of its best, both in work and games. To do this we award prizes and medals and every child can win one. These prizes and medals are bought from School funds.

4. The printing of this magazine must be paid for before a copy is sold. School Funds provide the money.

5. Much extra apparatus has been bought for the school from the fund including a film-strip library, and a gramophone record library. I will arrange for some of this apparatus to be on show at a future P.T.A. meeting.

That, briefly, is how we use the fund. In other words, it is used to ensure that *your* child gets the best of which we are capable. May I thank you for your support in the past and express the hope that, if possible, you will even increase it in the future.

R. E. COLE, Headmaster.

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SCHOOL PREFECTS — 1954-55

Janice Newnum	Geoffrey Hiscox
Sandra Best	Terry Chandler
Valerie Burgess	Jeremy Cole
Sandra Flexman	Donald Evans
Carol Gardner	Robert Mayes
Christine Newell	Peter Peirce
Sheila Self	Brian Tilson
Kathleen Weeks	Denis Wakerley

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MAGAZINE COMMITTEE — 1954-55

Janice Newnum	Terry Chandler	Geoffrey Hiscox
Sandra Flexman	Jeremy Cole	Frank Nichols