

Extract from the logbook of Amberley Parochial School, Gloucestershire (1898)

- January 17th* Punished Arthur Richards, Hubert Merks and James E. Watkins, for throwing mud at the clock on Thursday night, by which they stopped it and put it out of order.
- February 17th* The Rector called this morning and read to the children a circular issued by the Department on stonethrowing and afterwards spoke to them on the evils resulting from this practice.
- March 26th* New cupboard put up in schoolroom today. This cupboard has been bought out of the proceeds of the children's concert held at Christmas and is for storing the library.
- April 4th* Holiday today – Parish Council election
- April 28th* Received a note from Mrs Niblett saying that she is taking May (Standard 1V) away to send her to a private school as she does not think the society at this school suitable for her.
- May 13th* Standard 1 has made a perfect attendance this week.
- May 16th* We have decided to teach spelling this year from the reading books, supplementing the lessons by word-building on words taken from the reading lessons. We have given word-building a three year trial and find that it utterly fails to teach the children to spell. The new Standard V make mistakes over the simplest words in their composition exercises, one half of them failing from spelling alone each lesson.
- July 1st* Many boys away haymaking.
- September 21st* Sixteen children away suffering from sickness caused by the great heat of the past three weeks.

ACTIVITIES

1. What can you find out about the children's behaviour from this extract?
2. What can you find out about the lessons?
3. Choose one of the incidents or children recorded in the logbook. Write about the day from one child's point of view.
4. Word-building means putting parts of words together to make whole words. Make a list of the words that have been broken up in the spelling and reading book on document 8 that could be used by this school to do 'word-building'.

