

7.9.60.

1<sup>st</sup> Day of The Downs Secondary Modern School, Compton Berks.

Headmaster:- P. A. Bowden, Esq.

Deputy Head:- Miss B. J. Wall.

Head of Rural Studies:- Mr. G. Hall.

Head of Mathematics:- Mr. J. Jordan.

Graded Post for Wood/Metal Work:- Mr. G. Evans.

Graded Post for Backward Pupils:- Mr. J. Ball.

Graded Post for Music:- Mr. G. Kinder.

Graded Post for Boys P.E.:- Mr. T. Lewis.

Teacher of Geography:- Mr. T. Stephen.

Teacher of Art/Craft:- Mrs. R. Scott.

Teacher of Needlework:- Mrs. J. Riddington.

Teacher of Housecraft:- Mrs. V. J. Harpell.

Teacher of Maths - Gen. Science:- Mr. C. Riddington.

Temp. Teacher of History:- Mr. J. Stanton.

School Secretary:- Mrs. Thomas.

caretaker:- Mr. A. Gale.

Gardens/Graverman:- Mr. T. Berry.

Book Supervisor:- Mrs. Skilton.

No. of Children:- 247.

A visit to the school was made during the day by  
Sir Leonard Wilson, Chairman of Governors.

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| 8.9.60.   | School visited by Mr. Firth H.M.I. for Newbury Division.   |
| 16.9.60.  | Rev. J. Paisley, Vice-Chairman of Governors visited the school, p.m.<br>Meeting of Head Teachers Association (Newbury) at this school. |
| 20.9.60.  | Visit to School by Mr. Vidal, Governor of the school and a Headmaster from New York, U.S.A.  |
| 26.9.60.  | Meeting of Newbury Divisional Executive at this school. 2.30 p.m.  |
| 30.9.60.  | School closed for Reading Teachers Conference.   |
| 3.10.60.  | School visited by Mrs. Cousins H.M.I.  |
| 14.10.60. | Visit to school by Mr. R. Jenson P.E. Organiser for Berkshire.   |
| 5.10.60.  | Meeting of House Committee of the Downs School, to discuss 1961/2 estimates.   |
| 24.10.60. | School group visited Avebury -   |
| 25.10.60. | School visited by Mrs. J. Collins - Governor of the School.  |
| 27.10.60. | Governors Meeting. Introduction of Staff to Governing Body.  |

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| 2. 11. 60.  | School group visited the Ballet at Oxford.  |
| 8. 11. 60.  | Visit & Concert by Bucks. String Orchestra.   |
| 10. 11. 60. | School visited by Mr. J. Mowery - Visual Aids Officer for Berkshire.                                      |
| 14. 11. 60. | School group attended an Orchestral Concert at Oxford.  |
| 18. 11. 60. | 1 Day visit to school by Mr. Keith. H.M.I.  |
| 22. 11. 60. | Visit to school by members of County Architects Staff.  |
| 28. 11. 60. | Visit to school by Ald. Mrs. J. M. Taylor. O.B.E. Member of Berkshire Education Committee.                |
| 9. 12. 60.  | Governors Meeting to discuss details for the official opening of the school by the Minister of Education. |
| 15. 12. 60. | Bassal Taw. - 10 Villages visited by the school choir.  |
| 16. 12. 60. | Junior forms Xmas party.  |
| 19. 12. 60. | Senior School Xmas Party.   |
| 20. 12. 60. | Service of Carols. End of Autumn Term.<br>Mrs. R. Scott resigned - Husband moving to N. Highlands.        |

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| 10.1.61.    | Term started.   |
| 11.1.61.    | School visited by Mr. H. C. Cross - Young Farmers Clubs Advisory Officer to discuss the formation of Y.F.C. groups. |
| 18.1.61.    | Fashion display for girls - Simplicity Patterns Ltd.  |
| 19.1.61.    | S.W. Berks. Sports Assoc. X. Country race at Down School, Compton.  |
| 24-27.1.61. | Examination Period.   |
| 6.2.61.     | School group visited Didcot for a performance of miniature opera.   |
| 7.2.61.     | Miss H. Jeffery appointed Teacher Art/Craft. w/c 13/3/61.   |
| 9.2.61.     | School visited by Director of Education + Mr. E. B. Sheasby, Chairman of Berkshire Education Committee.             |
| 11.2.61.    | S.W. Berks. Netball Ass. Tournament held at the Downs School.   |
| 14.2.61.    | Safety Cycling Proficiency Test.  |
| 15.2.61.    | Local Studies Survey Group visited Churn + Lechliffe.   |

16.2.61.

Meeting of Governors.

David Eccles

24.2.61.

Official Opening of the School by the Rt. Hon. Sir David Eccles -  
Minister of Education.

A recording was made of his speech, and a film taken of the  
visit, and the tree planting ceremony.



ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE

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PROGRAMME

of

THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF  
THE DOWNS COUNTY SCHOOL, COMPTON

on FRIDAY, 24th February, 1961 at 2.30 p.m.

by

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(The Rt. Hon. Sir David Eccles, K.C.V.O., M.P.)

SPEAKERS

(A Prayer of Dedication will be offered by  
Rev. J. Paisley, a Governor of the School)

Mrs. E.B. SHEASBY

Chairman of the Education Committee  
Berkshire County Council

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

MR. M.W. PAINE

Chairman of the Newbury Divisional Executive

SIR LEONARD WILSON, K.C.I.E.

Chairman of the School Governors

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THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

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At the conclusion of the ceremony the Minister will plant a tree  
in the grounds and afterwards the school buildings will be open to the  
visitors.

A buffet tea will be served.

HEADMASTER - Mr. P.A. Bowden.

DEPUTY HEAD - Miss B.J. Wall.

CONTRIBUTORY SCHOOLS.

Compton C.E. (Controlled)  
Aldworth C.E. (Controlled)  
Ashampstead C.E. (Aided)  
East Ilsley County (Primary)  
Farnborough C.E. (Controlled)  
Hamstead Norris C.E. (Controlled)  
West Ilsley C.E. (Aided)  
Heritage County (Primary)  
Curridge County (Primary)  
Frisham C.E. (Controlled)  
Yattendon C.E. (Aided)  
Beeton C.E. (Controlled)  
Erightwalton C.E. (Aided)  
Chaddleworth C.E. (Controlled)  
Chieveley County (Primary)  
Bueklebury C.E. (Controlled)

GOVERNORS.

Sir Leonard Wilson (Chairman)  
Rev. James Paisley (Vice-Chairman)  
Capt. M.F. Turner-Bridger.  
Lady Hurd.  
Mr. J.E.A. Betts.  
Mr. T.H.S. Egerton.  
Mrs. N.P. Showers.  
Dr. W.S. Gordon, C.B.E.  
Mrs. Colling.  
Mrs. N.E. Abraham.  
Mr. J.H. Vidal.

STAFF.

Mr. J. Ball.  
Mr. G. Evans.  
Mr. G.J. Hall.  
Mrs. V.J. Harpor.  
Mr. J.G. Kinder.  
Mr. T.C. Lewis.  
Mr. J. Mordee.  
Mr. G. Riddiough.  
Mrs. J. Riddiough.  
Mr. J.J. Stanton.  
Mr. T. Stephens.  
Mrs. E.M. Thomas (Secretary)  
Mr. H. Gale (Caretaker)  
Mr. T. Berry (Gardener/Groundsman)  
Mrs. G. Shilton (School Meals' Supervisor)



THE DOWNS SCHOOL, COMPTON.

Official Opening

by

The Minister of Education,

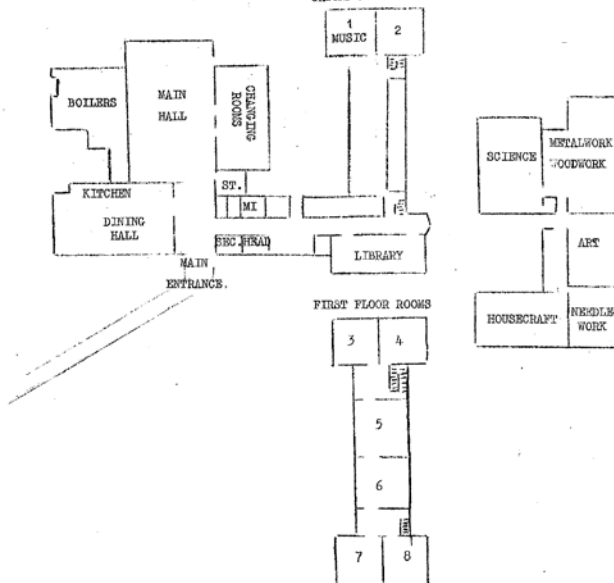
THE RT. HON. SIR DAVID EGLES, K.C.V.O., M.P.

on

Friday, 24th February, 1961, at 2.30 p.m.

DOWNS SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL

GROUND FLOOR ROOMS.



THE DOWNS SCHOOL, COMPTON.

This School, which was completed in June, 1960 and admitted its first pupils on the 7th September, was designed as a Two Form Entry (plus one Classroom) County Modern School.

It provides Secondary education for children from an area of some 35 to 40 square miles. At present 241 pupils attend the school, but it is anticipated that with a succession of first year intakes, this figure will eventually rise to the region of 500.

The work of the school will develop an Agricultural bias, and extended courses in Science and Technical subjects in relation to Agriculture will eventually form a part of the curriculum.

- 27.2.61. 4<sup>th</sup> Tr. visit to 7 Barrow & Polycowry.
- 8.3.61. Parent - Teachers Meeting -  
Visit to school of B.B.C. T.V. Camera Unit. - Film taken  
for showing on Children's Television programme. (Copy to be made  
available to school)
- 13.3.61. Miss Jeffery started teaching. - Art/Craft.
- 14.3.61. Visit to school by Mr. D. Hurd - Head of John James High. Kingston
- 21.3.61. G.F.C. Meeting - Mr. Croys - G.F.C. county secretary attended
- 23.3.61. Inter House Netball Tournament  
Staff v. Boys Football Match. Staff won.
- 10/15. 3.61. School Camping / Climbing Expeditions to D. Wales.  
(5 Staff - 12 Boys).
- 25.4.61. English Post Interview. Miss R. Carter appointed.
- 29.4.61. School group to Soccer International - Wembley
- 16.5.61. Senior Choir Festival - Newbury.

- 17.5.61. Senior Country Dance Festival - Newbury. - 60 children took part.
- 24.5.61. D. of Edinburgh's Expedition Group to Strathay & Lakemba Regis for 24 hr. Expedition.
- 25.5.61. Governors Meeting.
- 26.5.61. School Party to N.H.A. journey of Yorkshire Dales to 3 June.  
Visit to school of Mrs Whitborough (H.M.I. for School Affairs.)
- 30.5.61. Open Evening for Parents & Friends - (Technical Training Week)
- 1.6.61. 3<sup>7</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Hrs to visit to Commonwealth Tech Training Exhibition - Newbury.
- 9.6.61. 1<sup>st</sup> Page Day - Guest Speak. - Sir Anthony Ford, M.P. for Newbury.
- 22.6.61. School visited by Mrs Cooling, H.M.I.
- 23.6.61. Visit to Royal Selkies - Windsor by School U.P.C.
- 26.6.61. 3<sup>rd</sup> Hrs. visit to Sluinkeridge Wild Fowl Trust.
- 8.7.61. Summer Fair in aid of Swimming Pool Fund.

- 13.7.61. 1<sup>st</sup> Sports Day.
- 19.7.61. Visit to School by Miss Hawkins - H.M.I. for Girls P.E.
- 25.7.61. Staff v. Boys Cricket - Staff won.
- 26.7.61. End of Term.
- 27.7.61. Visit to House of Commons & London Airport by H<sup>th</sup> U. Leavers.
- 6.9.61. Term started. Miss R. Carlos joined staff as Head of English Dept.
- 14.9.61. Governors Meeting for Election of Co-opted Members.
- 25.9.61. Visit by H<sup>th</sup> U. Boys to Hoist & Crane Ltd.
- 3.10.61. School visited by Mr. Firth, H.M.I. & Miss Clarke, H.M.I.
- 9.10.61. H<sup>th</sup> U. visit to Avebury.
- 24.10.61. Visit of G.Z.C. to Radnal Farm.
- 26.10.61. Governors Meeting - shown films of School & T.V. films  
& film of Catherine Dalt H.M.A. journey.

- 15.11.61. School visit to Greenham Common, U.S.A. 7. School - for National Book Week.
- 29.11.61. School visit by Mr. G. Humphreys - County Educational Adviser.
- 13/14.12.61. School Production of 'Pinnocchio'.
- 19.12.61. End of Term Carol Concert & Town of Villages.  
Mr. T. Lewis left staff.
- 10.1.62. Term started. Mr. J. Griffiths joined staff. (Borg. 7.E.)  
School visited by Mr. Firth H.M.I.
- 15.1.62. Work commenced on Rural Studies Unit.
- 9.2.62. J.F.C. visits to Orchard Farm - Chilton.
- 22.2.62. Governors Meeting - Mr. J. Griffiths awarded S.R. post.
- 5.3.62. Local Studies group visited Seven Barrows & Clifton.
- 14.3.62. Visit of S.M. Head Teachers to school. - Talk on 'Baker Report' by Mr. Withington H.M.I.

- 15.3.62. School presented Simplicity Fashion Display.
- 21.3.62. I.M.A. talk by Mr. Walker - Warden of Stratley L.H.
- 26.3.62. School visited by Mr. Wright - V. Principal of Culham College.
- 27.3.62. School visit to Ideal Homes Exhibition.
- 29.3.62. Meeting with Rural Dean & Vicar re. Denominational Instruction.
- 5.4.62. Staff Soccer Match v. Boys - Staff won.
- 6.4.62. School visited by Mr. Fitch H.M.I.
- 12.4.62. End of Terms. Miss M. Jeffery (A.C.) & Mr C. Ridgway (Science) left staff.
- 15/16. 5.62. Joint production with Compton Players of "Medbourne White Dawn".
- 18.5.62. Road Safety Talk given by P.C. Hogg (Newbury).
- 23.5.62. School visited by 14 students from University of Reading.
- 24.5.62. Governors Meeting.

- 25.5.62. (til 1.6.62) J.H.A. journey to Berkshire Dales. (Mr Stanton & Mrs Riddiough in charge)
- 5.6.62. School choir took part in Newbury Choral Festival.
- 6.6.62. Newbury Country Dance Festival.
- 15.6.62. Internal Audit of School Accounts.
- 7.7.62. Summer Fair.
- 10.7.62. Visit by Sept. intake for Junior Music Festival.
- 11.7.62. Senior School visit to Coventry Cathedral.
- 20.7.62. End of Term - Mrs Riddioughs left staff.
- 11.9.62. Term started. 338 children on roll. New members of staff.  
Mrs I. Oakes (Dance), Mrs M. Carington (Needlework) Mr. A. Jones (Art Dept)
- 20.9.62. 3/4<sup>th</sup> B. Boys. visit to "Do-it-Journal"-Exhibition.
- 10.10.62. School visited by Mr. Atkins. H. No. 1.

- 11.10.62. School visited by Mr. G. Humphries - County Education Advisor.
- 19.10.62. M<sup>rs</sup> G. G. visit to N.I. Fair & Low Courts - Reading.
- 25.10.62. Governors Meeting.
- 5.11.62. M<sup>rs</sup> G. visit to Avebury.
- 13.11.62. Staff Discussion re. C.S.E. examinations.
- 14.11.62. Parents Meeting re. proposed journey to Switzerland.
- 29.11.62. 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Day. Guest Speaker - Mr. M. N. Paine. M.B.E. Chairman of the Northern Divisional Education Executive.
- 12/14.12.62. School Drama Production - "Christmas Carol." (£55 raised towards Swimming Pool Funds)
- 20.12.62. End of term Carol Concert & Carol tour of Villages.  
(£25 raised towards Oxfam Appeal)
- 8.1.63. Term started. - Severe Snow prevented many children from attending school. Mrs. Skellan joined staff as a Part-time teacher.
- 17.1.63. Cold weather continues. Power failure, causing failure of heating system. Children sent home 1.30 p.m.

- 21.1.63. Students unable to commence Teaching Practice - Roads blocked by snow.
- 23.1.63. School closed. - Transport delayed by excessive fog.
- 6.2.63. School closed - Failure of Transport system due to snow & ice.
- 13.2.63. School visited by Mr. Firth, H.M.I.
- 28.2.63. Governors Meeting.
- 20.3.63. School visited by Mr. Karsley. - Principal, S. Bath College of T. Ed.
- 14.4.63. Staff. Soccer matches v boys - Staff. con.
- 5.4.63. Country Dance Evening.
- 16/20.4.63. Canoe-Camping Expedition.
- 26.4.63. D.P.C. visit to 'Food Bank' - at Nashbury  
School visited by Mrs. Cooing, H.M.I.
- 30.4.63. Mrs. Stellan (Part-time teacher) left.
- 2.5.63. School visited by Mr. Platts. Headmaster, Pupil Report, E.S.A. School Meeting

- 14.5.63. 'Simplicity Fashion' Dress Display.
- 21.5.63. Visit to school of party of students from Inst. of Education.
- 23.5.63. Governors Meeting.
- 28/29.5.63. School Production of "Trial by Jury".
- 29.5.63. School visited by Miss Rambant - H.M.I. for Art/Crafts.
- 31.5.63. Departure of school party to Saitzaland. (returned on 8/6/63)
- 10.6.63. U.Z.C. visit to Richard Taldi's Farm at Henby on Thores.
- 18.6.63. Open Evening for Parents.
- 26.6.63. 'McLette Fashion Display' at School
- 27.6.63. Visit to school of 6. American Teachers
- 6.7.63. Summer Fair - raised all day - raised £176.
- 19.7.63. 4<sup>th</sup> U. Local Studies group to Kemble, Glouce. - Mr. Skelton - Mr. Skelton.

- 22.7.63. Visit to school of Prob. intake for Junior Music Festival.  
Parents evening -
- 25.7.63. End of Term. Mrs Harrod, Mr. Bell, Mr. Stanton left staff.
- 10.9.63. Term started. No. of pupils on roll. - 355.  
New Staff. Mrs. J. Box. (Housework)  
Miss Stradling (Geog/Art)  
Mr. R. Greenfield (History)  
Mr. R. Stanlake. (Agriculture/Science)
- 3.10.63. School visited by Mr. A. Homby - Deputy Director of Education  
for Berkshire.
- 7.10.63. Collision of 2 Coaches on leaving school.  
Harry Foster sustained a broken nose & fractured Duralium  
a suspected fractured clavicle.
- 11.10.63. Internal audit of school accounts
- 24.10.63. Governors Meeting
- 6.10.63. Discussion re. Agriculture Building with Div. Ed. Officer

12. 11. 63. School open for visitors.
19. 11. 63. 4<sup>th</sup> yr. on School Leavers Course at Chamey Bassett.
25. 11. 63. The school paid a silent tribute to the memory of President J. F. Kennedy.
27. 11. 63. Talk to Larsson School on the Police Force - Sgt. Rowan.
29. 11. 63. 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Day - Guest Speakers. Bishop of Canning.
3. 12. 63. G. F. C. visit to the Smithfield Show.
- 11/18. 12. 63 School Production "Dick Whittington".
19. 12. 63 Carol Concert.
20. 12. 63. End of Term - Carol Tours of Villages.
7. 1. 64. Term started.
22. 1. 64. Visit of Army John Clout.
3. 2. 64. Visit of Children's Theatre Co. to perform "Pilgrims Progress".

- 14.2.64 School visited by Mr Hoops - County Educational Advisor.
- 6.2.64 School visited by a Canadian Head Master.
- 13.2.64 School visited by Mrs Cooling. H.M.!
- 27.2.64 Governors Meeting.
- 2.3.64 School visited by Mr Fitch. H.M.!
- 19.3.64 Staff Soccer Match with Boys. - Staff won. Head to Baller Hospital with suspected broken nose, - Mr Jones to Reading Hospital with injured knee!
- 23.3.64 Careers Convention for 3<sup>rd</sup> Yr pupils & parents.
- 25.3.64 End of Term.
- 6/11.4.64 N. Wales Camping / Climbing Expedition.
- 14.4.64 Term started - Mrs Kenney appointed Temporary Assistant Teacher.  
Mrs Wall - Deputy Head - on one term's course at Reading University.
- 20.4.64 / School production of "H.M.S. Pinigone".  
1.5.64

- 4.5.64. Visit to school of Mr. Mwanbo - from S. Africa .
- 11.5.64 Mr. Skantake & 10 boys on 5 day visit to Farm Institute - Hatley  
School visited by Miss Haasthor. H.M.I.
- 15.5.64 School closed for P.S.E. Conference at Reading .
- 26.5.64 School visited by Mr. D. Crisdon-Miller - School Governor.
- 28.5.64. Governors Meeting .
- 4.6.64. J.F.C. visit to Bath & West Show at Swindon .
- 9/10.6.64 Combined production of 'The Tempest' .  
L<sup>th</sup> Y. to Oxford to see " Merchant of Venice "
- 19.6.64. Departure of Lake District J.H.P. Party. (Returned 28 June)
- 29.6.64. Excavation of Swimming Pool commenced
- 1.7.64. L<sup>th</sup> Y. Girls visited S.E.B. - Neotony
- 14.7.64. Summer Fair .
- 21.7.64. Visit by September intake for Junior Music Festival .

- 22.7.64 Open Evening
- 24.7.64 End of Term - Mr. A. Jones & Mrs. Cook left staff.
- 8.9.64 Term started - 363 on roll. - Mr. E. Saxton (Ave/Croft) new member of staff. Miss Wall rejoined staff.
- 17.9.64 Governors Meeting.
- 22.9.64 School visited by Col. Hills - member of Education Committee.
- 25.9.64 Mrs. Buxey left Staff, to go to Deanmth.
- 28.9.64 Miss Warren joined staff to teach Science & Biology.
- 15.10.64 Col. Hills talked to 5<sup>th</sup> Form on "The Times".
- 21.10.64 School visited by Dr Suttle H.M.
- 22.10.64 Governors Meeting.
- 29.10.64 Talk given to H<sup>th</sup> Girls by Mrs Hughes (Nat. Inst. for Youngest)

5. 11. 64. Death of Mrs D. Abrahams. - former Governor of this school.
10. 11. 64. Sir L. Nelson - Head attended funeral of Mrs Abrahams.
2. 12. 64 School visited by Miss Rankin H.M.I.
- 9/11. 12. 64. School Production "Alice in Wonderland"
18. 12. 64. End of term Carol Concert & Christ Tides.
7. 1. 65. Term commenced. - Mr. A. Macdonald joined staff.
21. 1. 65. Proposed N.A.S. strike cancelled.
22. 1. 65. Prize Day - Guest. Mr. A. Neave. M.P. for Aberystwyth.
11. 2. 65. Visit of Junior Leader (R.A.C) Regt. Band
25. 2. 65. Governors Meeting
14. 3. 65. Severe Snow Drifts - All bus children returned home.
5. 3. 65. Poor attendance - Snow still blocking roads.

- 10.3.65 Simplicity Fashion Dress Display
- 12.3.65 School visited by Dr Suttle H.M.I.
- 19.3.65 Staff Sports Match w. Boys - Match drawn.
- 26.3.65 H<sup>o</sup> Jc. Girls visit to Ideal Homes Exhibition.
- 30.3.65 Careers Evening for 3<sup>rd</sup> Yr. pupils & parents.
- 2.4.65 School visited by Mr Sagar - H.M.I. for P.E. (Boys)
- 13.4.65 End of Term - Mr J. Griffiths left staff.
- 3.5.65 Term started -
- 16.5.65 Visit to School by Mr Mellors, H.M.I. for Rural Studies - & Dr Suttle H.M.I.
- 15.5.65 U. F. County Rally at Faringdon. School club 2<sup>nd</sup> in Schools Competition.
- 26.5.65 Visit to School of Miss Harker, H.M.I. for Girls P.E.
- 27.5.65 Governor's Meeting.

1. 6. 65. Visit to school by Dr Suttle H.M.I.
3. 6. 65. Departure of Levist Party. with Miss Corless & Mr Stephens.
14. 6. 65. Return of U.H. Party from Levistgarland.
16. 6. 65. Visit to School by Miss Rombauer H.M.I. for Art/Craft.
- 17/18. 6. 65. School Production of "The Mikado".
18. 6. 65. School visited by Mr Atkins H.M.I.
- 22/24. 6. 65. General Inspection of School - (Copy of Report filed in Minute Book.)
28. 6. 65. Verbal Report on General Inspection - Dr Suttle H.M.I.
1. 7. 65. Report by Dr Suttle to Governing Body - (Copy of Report filed in Minute Book)
2. 7. 65. 5<sup>th</sup> Group to Lawrence Weston School, Bristol. (Exchange Visits)
22. 7. 65. Primary School Visits - Open Evening.
26. 7. 65. U.H.A. Party to Scotland.

