

18<sup>th</sup> October 1939

School opens. 382 boys arrive including several new comers.

Temporary registers are taken into use.

Classes, individually first of all are taken to the trench shelter accommodation to use the children to their positions.

Gas masks next are examined for auditions and fitting.

Later the whole school are practised in going to the trenches together.

14<sup>th</sup> May 1940

School has reopened today Tuesday, instead of on Thursday as was arranged. This is owing to the decree of the Government that all schools shall reopen where closed for Whitsun.

Mr Simpson who normally would have not returned after Whitsun, as he 'joins up' on Thursday, is back on duty till he goes.

The new air shelters are nearly complete, and owing to the urgency of the matter, we had preliminary shelter drill in the new shelters today.

26<sup>th</sup> August 1940

This morning was [*illegible*] spent in rearrangement of procedure in the event of air raids and alarms. Experience of this last week end suggests that as the bombs are now failing in some cases before the sirens give the alarm. The children must be able to go to the shelters instantly. They therefore must have their Respirators with them even at play time; and number [fractions] have been [indicatia] for each class to place its Respirators, and practice given in going from an alarm in the playground.

26th August 1940

An air raid warning was given at 3:30pm and lasted till 4:10pm approx.

No hostile aircraft appeared but the arrangements (this was really our first public performance) worked smoothly and well.

27<sup>th</sup> August 1940

An air raid warning of about 6 and a half hours duration last night (9:30pm—4am) during which hostile aircraft were overhead the whole of the time with

intermittent bombing in the immediate surrounding neighbourhood has resulted in only one third of normal attendance.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> October 1940

School should have started at 10am but air raid on till 10:25. Before the classes had assembled a further warning was given. Registers were closed in the trenches about 10:45. Raid on as I write, but no guns or hostile aircraft in evidence yet.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> October 1940

The Police have reported the presence of an 8 [*illegible*] land mine, unexploded in a house on the corner of Eastcote and Field End Lanes.

As a precautionary measure, in consultation with per marsh, it has been decided to close school for today until the mine can be rendered harmless. The children have been turned homewards as they arrive.

#### 28<sup>th</sup> April 1942

I am instructed by Local Office that in the event of invasion:

- 1) I shall receive notification of 'STAND TO' warning via 'Welldon Park School'
- 2) I must transmit such message to 'Earlsmead School Corfe avenue'