



THE Living **M**emory **A**ssociation **NEWSLETTER**

THELMA says, ‘Sit up straight! Hands on head!’



The children seem quite happy to be back at Fort Street Primary School, Leith in 1960. The wooden floor of the classroom has those tiered levels which would make it easier for the ones at the back of the room to see the blackboard.

Surely there was a typo? I read this as, ‘tiered levels make it easier to see the blackboard duster as it flew towards one’s head!’ **Says Ian Moss**



It’s 1918 at Fisherrow School in Musselburgh. There are twenty-nine boys of assorted ages so perhaps all the boys and all the girls of the school were photographed separately. They are not all dressed in school uniform as such but clearly a lot of effort has gone into being smartly turned out for the photograph.



A practical maths session at Drylaw Primary School in 1955.

The pupils are taking their tasks very seriously and are clearly learning a lot about weight and volume.

When Anne Stephen (née Seggie) brought in the photos (a few years ago), she commented, 'The equipment was largely improvised but it was practical and individual - 50 years ago!'

She was right to sound surprised as this was still largely the era of 'chalk and talk' with the teacher standing at the blackboard and the children sitting firmly in their seats and not asking questions.



I remember having a gymslip at Bruntsfield primary in 1959.

Says Myra Robertson



Gorgie Primary School in Edinburgh in 1931. Mary McCaughie (née Dunn) is in the middle row, fourth right, in gymslip and tie. Classes of forty-five children were not unusual in those days and the teacher ruled with a firm hand, no doubt. When did gymslips go out of fashion? Do you remember wearing one? And there is a fine display of knees in the front row, as boys continued to wear short trousers until they were into secondary school. Grey shorts, grey knee-high socks and grey (hand-knitted?) jumpers, with grey woollen balaclavas in the winter.



It is 1955 in Fort Street Primary School in Leith and Brian Ferguson is sitting at his desk. He's looking very smart and taking inspiration from the Persevere motto.

I was always getting the belt for talking in class or forgetting my homework or carrying on in the playground. **Says Rab Auld**

I cried in the house every year on the first day back to school, even until going into 5th Year aged sixteen. I hated school from the get-go. It's forty years this summer since leaving school. I still feel relieved I don't have to go back. **Says Donna Caldwell.**



Bonnington Road Primary School, 1960.



James Clark's Secondary School, 1965.

I remember the first day of secondary school. We got placed at our desks in alphabetical order so I met my friend Jillian that way and we are still friends. **Says Susan Bird.**

On Monday mornings we had to hold our hands out and Miss Adams inspected them. We had to have neatly cut fingernails and a fresh hanky. I don't remember how many parents complied with this but mine did. That was in 1974/75. **Says David Donaldson.**



Hume Primary School,
Berwickshire 1953.

I used to get new black rubbers for doing PE and black gym knickers with elasticated legs. **Says Margaret Brown**

This group of primary school classmates are in the playground of Hermitage Park Primary School in Leith with their teacher in 1957.



My daughter liked school but my sons used to get really annoyed when the shops and department stores set up displays of school clothes, stationery etc, and put up big signs, saying 'Get Ready to go Back to School', in the first week of the summer holidays. **Says Evelyn Whitfield**




Do you have memories, stories, or photos you'd like to share?

Please get in touch:

comhist@gmail.com

07714783726

f livingmemoryassociation

 thelmascotland

 thelmascotland

The Wee Museum of Memory

10.30am – 4pm Mon – Fri

11am – 4pm Sat/Sun

Ocean Terminal next to
Royal Yacht Britannia

We are Open to visitors!

www.livingmemory.org.uk

