

CLENT FIRST SCHOOL

Clent School celebrated its 25th anniversary in its present building on November 29th 1999. The children had a terrific party and thought what a huge amount of time that was. In fact, of course, the School's history goes back nearly three hundred years - to 1705 when John Amphlett opened a purpose built school and house for the schoolmaster, very near to the Church. This was built on the site of two cottages and the first teacher, a Mr. Humphrey Pretty, the vicar's bother-in-law, would have had six 'Objects of Charity' and a further twenty or so pupils chosen by the Trustees in his charge.

In 1847, the Durant-Thatcher family opened a new Infant School opposite the church for the younger children, who had previously been taught in the Billiard Room of Clent Hall - their family residence. By this time the two schools could each boast a Headteacher plus one other member of staff, with the Junior School benefiting from the services of 'pupil teachers' - older children who assisted the teacher, earning a very low wage for doing so.

Upon the retirement of the Infant School Head in 1962, the two sites became one school and functioned in this way until the move to the new premises in 1974. It was at this time that pupils began to transfer at the age of nine to the newly created Hagley Middle School, instead of moving on at age eleven. Since this time, the present building has been extended and further improved as we look forward to many more years of history making!

*Many thanks to Mr. John Partington, former Headteacher, for his invaluable help in writing this article.
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2000
