
**On the British Education System
and
The State Schools in Cambridge (IX)**

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In the preceding essays (Vol.VI and VII), I mentioned a general statement of Milton Road Junior School including the school organization, curriculum, extra curricular activities, P.T.A., school meals, educational visits, and so on, according to the school pamphlet. In Vol.VIII, I told you about my younger daughter's school lessons including spelling and reading, language and mathematics.

In this essay, I will mention the school lessons, especially science, physical education and project.

Science

As in Japan, it seems that they give various experiments to the school children. According to the school pamphlet, work in Science is concerned with fostering enquiring minds and a scientific approach to problems and their possible solutions. This is achieved in a linked ways, developing:

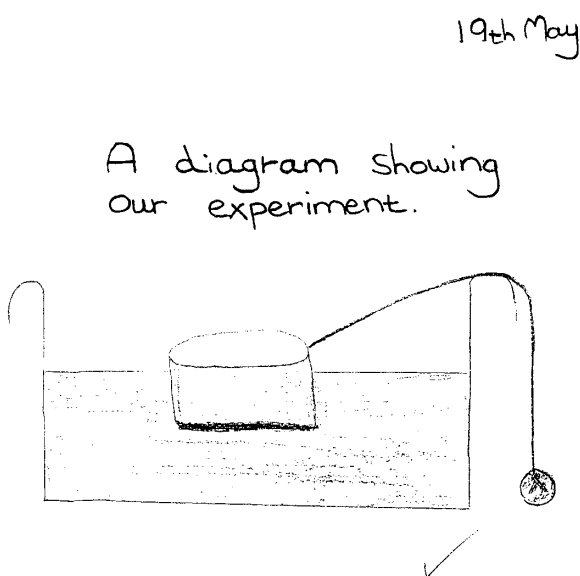
- scientific concepts through various activities
- processes and skills
- the ability to make well-founded generalisations.

The acquisition of scientific concepts is important in order that the children make some sense of the many aspects of the world around them. The

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concepts may include, for example, energy, structure, life and change. Processes and skills, such as observation, exploration and experimentation will lead to new knowledge, an aesthetic awareness of the subjects under study and the ability to form, test and re-test their own hypotheses. The children should be able to make meaningful scientifically-based general statements and to apply some of their knowledge to practical situations.

Now I will show you two copies of the notebook of science in which my younger daughter wrote down. One of them is experiment on 19th May, '87, to prove that water power is more efficient than foot power for transporting things. The other is an experiment on 2nd June, '87, to create a hovercraft which moves without friction.









19th May

Aim

Our aim is to prove that water power is ^{more efficient} quicker than foot power for transporting things.

Apparatus

Bowl 
 Water 
 Plastacine 
 String 
 Marbles 
 Cup 

What we did

We got string and tied it round the cup and put plastacine on the end of the string and hanged the string out of the bowl.

Very good so far - but what happened?

But she does not mention the result, partly because she could not understand, it seems, the meaning of the experiment, and partly because she could not express the result owing to the language barrier, though the teacher points out the misspelling and the right expression, and says "Very good so far, but what happened." and "Finish off, please."

2nd June

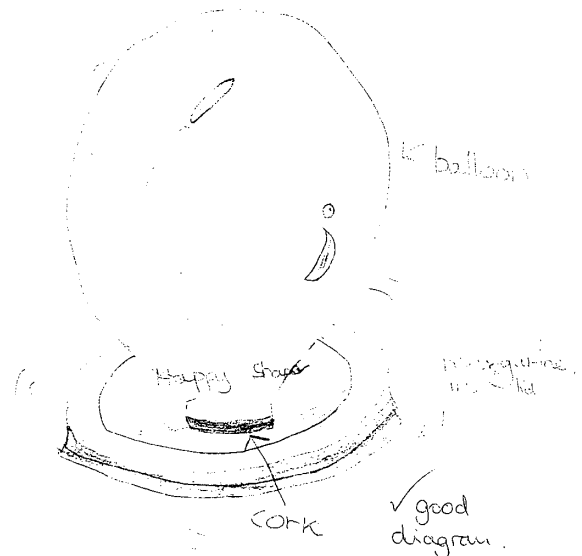
To Reduce friction

Objective
To create a hovercraft which moves without friction.

Apparatus

- 1 Balloon
- 1 cork with a hole in it
- 1 margarine lid
- 1 pair of scissors ✓

Method
First we cut a hole in the margarine lid about 3 cm wide. Then we put the cork in with the balloon on.
Then I blew it up.
Finish off please.



Physical Education

As the brief notes outline the work in PE, "skills and use of apparatus are developed to suit the needs of the growing child. Games help the child to enjoy and develop these new skills and they promote social development, self-discipline and fitness. Children are encouraged to play a variety of sports in addition to the major national team games and various school teams play matches against other schools....First and 2nd years have a daily use of the hall. Third and 4th years have two half-hour periods plus

an hour's games each week. Swimming is part of the PE programme for all pupils." Winter games are netball and soccer. Summer ones are cricket, rounders and some softball.

In fact I saw a lot of games including soccer, netball, cricket, snooker on television every weekend. In the case of my daughter's school, they let girls play netball many times. It is a girls' game in which a ball has to be thrown up so as to fall through a horizontal ring from which a net hangs down. It resembles basketball, but it has no board like basketball. I have never seen the game in Japan. According to my daughter's diary, rounders was played so often, though I was in New York in July, leaving my family in Cambridge. It is a game for two teams, played with bat and ball, the players running through a number of bases arranged in a round, while it is the game from which baseball is said to have been developed. And in winter, the school boys and girls went to a swimming pool. Swimming is, in my opinion, an important part of PE for all pupils. But they had no swimming pool at Milton Road Junior School, so in winter they took the pupils to the heated swimming pool near Park Side in Cambridge by bus. And at the end of the final term, they gave each child a certificate according to his / her ability. My daughter was awarded 2nd Certificate for swimming 30 metres.

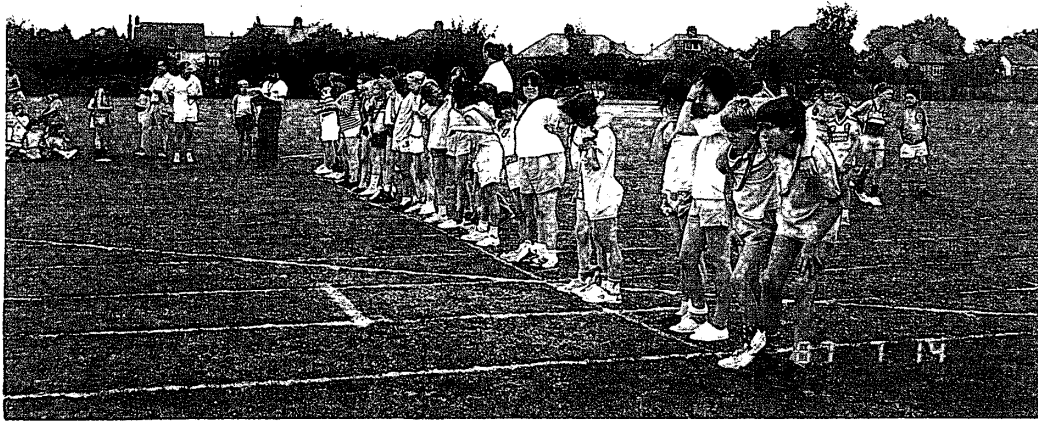
At the end of the final term, there are some school events. One of them is Sports Day. It was on Tuesday, 14th July, '87, at 1:45 on the Gilbert Road Field, Cambridge. Some games and races are similar to those of Japanese schools; relays, three-legged races, sprint and obstacle relays. I will show you a Sports Programme, and some photographs of the Sports Day and 2nd Certificate of swimming section by Cambridge Primary Schools' Sports Association.

MILTON ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL
Sports Programme 1987

<u>Event No.</u>	<u>Year</u>				
1	1	Girls	60m	Sprint	
2	1	Boys	60m	Sprint	
3	2	Girls	60m	Sprint	
4	2	Boys	60m	Sprint	
5	3	Girls	75m	Sprint	
6	3	Boys	75m	Sprint	
7	4	Girls	75m	Sprint	
8	4	Boys	75m	Sprint	
9	1		60m	Skipping	
10	2		60m	Skipping	
11	3		60m	Skipping	
12	4		60m	Skipping	
13	1		15m	Wheelbarrow	
14	2		15m	Wheelbarrow	
15	3		20m	Wheelbarrow	
16	4		20m	Wheelbarrow	X + Chandrika
17	1		60m	Three-legged	
18	2		60m	Three-legged	
19	3		60m	Three-legged	
20	4		60m	Three-legged	X + Amanda
21	1			Potato	
22	2			Potato	
23	3			Potato	
24	4			Potato	
25	1			Obstacle Relay	
26	2			Obstacle Relay	
27	3			Obstacle Relay	
28	4			Obstacle Relay	
29	PRE-SCHOOL INVITATION				
30	4			Novelty	X
31	1		60m	Relay	
32	2		60m	Relay	
33	3		75m	Relay	
34	4		75m	Relay	

Thank you for coming. A collection will be made at the gate at the end of the Sports - in aid of school funds.

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Sports Day on the Gilbert Road Field, Cambridge

Cambridge Primary Schools' Sports Association
SWIMMING SECTION

2nd Certificate

Awarded

to

Ritsuka Shigeta

For swimming 30 metres,

Date *July, 1987*

J.R. Ellis

Project

According to the time tables of Milton Road Junior School, 6 periods a week are given to Project in Autumn Term, and 8 periods a week to Project entitled "My Body Project" in Winter Term. So lessons of Project, in my opinion, containing science and social studies, is very important to the school education. Indeed I took much interest in "My Body Project" because it is a part of Health Education throughout the four years in a scientific and social context, and this project is encouraged by Health Education Council and includes a section on sex education.

When Winter Term began, we received a school letter from the headmaster informing us of the meeting entitled "MY BODY PROJECT : PARENTS' EVENING." So my wife and I attended the Parents' Evening in the middle of February. At the meeting, Mr. Phipps and Mrs. Russon,

MILTON ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOLMilton Road
Cambridge

21st January 1987

Dear Parents,

MY BODY PROJECT: PARENTS' EVENING
 MONDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 1987 at 7.00 for 7.30 pm
in the Junior School Hall

The Science and Social Studies time in the fourth-year classes this term is, as you know, being devoted to work on the Health Education Council "My Body" project, through which your child will learn about the various body systems - breathing, circulatory, muscular, skeletal and reproductive, etc.

I am sure you would like to know more about this massive area of study - so that you will be better able to share these learning experiences with your child.

Mr. Phipps and Mrs. Russon will explain the contents of the course at this meeting. Materials will be on view from 7.00 pm and there will be an opportunity to view some of the film used in the course.

Please make every effort to attend.

Yours sincerely,



Headmaster.

P4/R4

Milton Road Junior School
 Gilbert Road
 Cambridge CB4 1UZ

9th March 1987

4th Year Classes - My Body Project

Dear Parents,

During the next two weeks we are turning our attention to the Reproductive System and as part of this will be showing a number of films. Some of these were shown at the special Parents' Evening on the Project. If you would like to be present when these are screened you are very welcome to join us, but don't feel that this is essential - we do hope, however, that you will help in any follow-up discussions which may arise at home.

The times when the films will be screened are:

Tuesday 10th :
 Wednesday 11th : From 1.30pm - 2.15pm on each day
 Tuesday 17th :
 Wednesday 18th :

Thank you for the interest which you are showing in the whole Project.

Yours sincerely,

I.D. Phipps

J.A. Russon

class teachers for the 4th Year, explained the contents of the course, and they showed the materials and some of the films used in the course. And at the beginning of March, we also received a school letter from the class teachers, saying that during the next two weeks they were turning their attention to the Reproductive System and that as part of that would be showing a number of films, adding that if we would like to be present when those were screened we were very welcome to join them. So I felt actually that Reproductive System is the main theme in this project.

Now I will tell you what my daughter learned, through my daughter's booklet for this lesson, but the space is limited. So I will mention it more minutely in the next volume.

(Continued)