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FOREWORD

A school magazine is a composite affair for like the school itself it must serve many purposes. I read recently that it should "help the members of the school to observe more widely, note more fully, react more sensitively, write more accurately, illustrate more vividly and read more closely". These aims are the objective of much of our teaching today and parents can judge from the contents which follow whether they consider the objectives are being reached. Most items were not written specifically for the magazine but were selected from the year's work.

In a service school it is inevitable that the school population constantly changes and class lists are out of date almost before they are printed. For those who are leaving us we hope that the magazine will bring back happy memories of the time they spent at Verdala.

I first came to the school towards the end of May last year and can well remember my surprise at finding it placed in such unorthodox surroundings. Since that first hot, sunny day the surroundings have grown familiar but the events taking place can never become dull through familiarity. I have seen children of all ages and sizes wearing a minimum of clothing trooping happily across the wide expanse of the playground heading for the delights of the swimming pool. I have seen the same children scurrying across the same playground with the wind whistling in their ears, rain falling almost horizontally, with miniature torrents rushing down the driveway and with puddles which are traps for unwary feet forming in all directions. It says much for the adaptability of our children that they accept the strange surroundings, the variety of weather conditions, the changing population and the often long and bumpy bus journey with a good-humoured philosophical attitude that augurs well for their future.

Since I have not yet completed one year perhaps I may be permitted to record a few first impressions: the general feeling of happiness, interest and enthusiasm which permeates the school; the willing co-operation of staff and children; the precision with which sports days and similar events are carried out; the exceptionally high percentage of parents who attend on open days; paraffin stoves which smell, make soot or else go out; the most enjoyable school pantomime; roofs of Malta stone which drip and leak when the rains come; the general

good conduct in school and on the buses; the amazing imagination of children in 'spinning a story'; and finally the rapidity with which the days pass by.

Producing a magazine takes much thought time and effort. My grateful thanks to all involved from the editor who initiates, cajoles, sifts and arranges to the secretaries who prepare scripts for the printer.

Finally I could not end without expressing my appreciation of the help given to me by Mr. Ross and Miss Goffe. I am indebted to them for so willingly sharing with me the fruits of their experience at Verdala and for the efficient way in which the two departments are run and the day to day crises surmounted.

A.J.G. NEWBERY,
Headmaster.

STAFF LIST 1964-65

HEADMASTER

Instructor Commander A.J.G. Newbery, R.N.

DEPUTY HEADMASTER AND HEAD OF JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

P. Ross

4A	R. Carrell	2AJ	G.W. King
4B	A.L. Rowe	2BS	K. Mifsud
4C	K.J.F. Woodhams	2BJ	A. Newman
3A	A.D. Powell	2C	L. Harris-Candey
3B	S.D. Mutch, M.A.	1AS	L.R. Farrugia-Bell
3C	K. Radford	1AJ	D. Rowley
2AS	J. Ousbey	1B	S. Leslie

LIBRARY/RECEPTION

D.A. Ager, B.Sc. (Econ.)

MUSIC

C.J. Why

HEAD OF THE INFANT DEPARTMENT

Miss J. Goffe

INFANTS

1.	J. Smith	9.	M.A. Stewart
2.	L.A. Mitchell	10.	M. Hodby
3.	S. Taylor	11.	J. Hurlbut
4.	J.M. McNally	12.	C. Civil
5.	M.M. Threlfall	13.	L.P. Charlesworth
6.	J.A. Leaning	14.	P. Langford
7.	J. Fry	15.	J. Perkins
8.	R.E. Musgrave		

SCHOOL NURSE

Mrs. E. Baker, S.R.N.

SECRETARIAL STAFF

Miss J. Chaplin

Mrs. P.J. Morgan

It was with very sincere regret that we heard of the death of a very popular and respected previous Headmaster of Verdala, Cdr. L. G. Brooks, M.B.E., R.N. Cdr. Brooks was a tireless worker for the school and with the well-being of the children always in mind he made many improvements at Verdala during a very difficult time. Today we still benefit from his efforts in the past. Our sincerest sympathy goes to Mrs. Brooks who, like her husband, did so much for the school.

Parents will see for themselves when they read the magazine, the many activities available to pupils of Verdala. We still cater for such a wide spread of interests, academically, socially and culturally, that there must be very few children who do not find something to interest them. Our thanks go to the many members of the Staff and Parents responsible for the running of these activities.

We continue to do well in the academic, cultural, social and athletic spheres and our policy of having no narrow concentration on any one field continues to succeed. We believe in catering for children of all standards of abilities and interests, be they well-above or much-below average.

I think it is worth while recording that, on the whole, the standard of behaviour of our pupils is excellent. Without the children's co-operation, active interest and help, so many of our aims would never be reached. We are very proud of the team-spirit within our school. The Cleaning Staff, Naafi Staff, Office Staff, Children, Parents, Teachers and Headmaster are all essential in the successful running of the school. Non-co-operation on the part of any section can upset the whole. I think this important element of school life is too often forgotten by many who write on our educational problems of today. Much has been written recently on such problems as streaming, non-streaming, abolition or retention of Eleven-Plus Examination, age of transfer to Secondary Stage, Grammar, Modern or Comprehensives for Secondary Education, Corporal Punishment, G.C.E.'s and C.S.E.'s. The average parents, keen to do their best for their children and keep abreast with educational development and thought must, at times, find it all very difficult and confusing.

The following brief comments on how Verdala stands on some of the controversial points of today may interest parents.

Streaming/Non-Streaming

Streaming means the placing of children in classes according to their ability. Convincing arguments can be advanced for and against streaming.

At Verdala we have streaming because we believe that this is best for our children. Administratively, streaming is more difficult than non-streaming but we accept this. If in the future we are convinced that non-streaming is best for the child then we would readily adopt it.

The Eleven Plus Examination

We still use the eleven-plus examination. In fact, we have two types in use, the Moray House Test and the National Foundation for Educational Research Test, and until we have non-selective, non-streamed Secondary Schools, someone, somewhere will have to test Primary Schools leavers before they are placed in the Secondary School Courses best suited to their ability.

The eleven-plus examination is not ideal and its main fault is its undue influence on the English and Arithmetic Schemes of Work in the Primary School. However, some of the schemes aimed at replacing the original eleven-plus do little to improve the situation and in some cases seem to cause even further complications. Many local authorities still use the eleven-plus and as many of our children return to these authorities it is essential that we continue with these tests until the situation becomes less confused.

Corporal Punishment

There is provision for corporal punishment at Verdala but it is very rarely used. However, even children must be made to realise that there is a code of behaviour which must be accepted if the group is to benefit from and enjoy school life in an atmosphere of freedom, confidence, friendship and enjoyment. It is only after all efforts have failed that corporal punishment is used and we are delighted to say that most of our children respond to other treatment.

Generally speaking busy children are well-behaved children and we prefer to use the incentives of interest, industry and encouragement rather than the cane. By this means discipline is enforced through the needs of the individual and the group, and peace, order and happiness prevail.

C.S.E./G.C.E.

The C.S.E. (Certificate of Secondary Education) examinations have been designed to reflect the work of the Secondary Modern School and not to dictate it. Teachers have taken part in the planning of the syllabuses and examinations and it is possible that these examinations, quite revolutionary in their outlook, will be taken as models for the future, even in the G.C.E. (General Certificate of Education). However it is to be hoped that they will be used for the purpose for which they were designed and not become poor-relations or trial-runs for G.C.E.

Parents may well wonder why we have included a comment on a purely Secondary Stage Certificate. We have always believed in the need for liaison between all stages of the child's education, and we have a Liaison Committee specially set up for this purpose. It is acknowledged that each stage has its own aims and interests but it is the same child who is Infant today, Junior tomorrow and Secondary in the future, and we must make the transition as easy as possible for the child.

Homework

Generally speaking, Primary Schools in U.K. do not set homework. If a child is kept busy during the day then the evenings should be left free for personal pursuits such as Wolf Cubs, Brownies, Ballet, Music, Riding, Soccer, Play and Relaxation.

However, we do feel that our children, because of the breaks in the continuity of their education, sometimes require a certain amount of remedial work. It is therefore the policy of this department to set homework of a *remedial* nature only within the following limits.

4th Year — a maximum of two hours per week.

3rd Year — a maximum of one hour pre week.

1st/2nd Years — Corrections or a very small amount of learning (tables, spelling, reading, etc.) only.

Homework is not set for the purpose of keeping children occupied in the evening. There is no objection to children taking class reading books home and of course they do have their school library books.

It is hoped that these few comments will give parents some idea of the policy adopted in this Department. However, for a school to successfully fulfil its purpose in society there must be

mutual understanding and trust between teachers and children and we are fortunate to have this at Verdala.

We at Verdala believe in being 'modern' as long as it benefits the child and we are, at the same time, willing to be branded 'old fashioned' if by being old fashioned means again doing our best for the child. A new Mathematics syllabus has been introduced and the English syllabus is being re-written. French will be introduced in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Years next year. The Science Scheme is working well and we maintain a high standard in Music, Art, Physical Education and Social Studies. This is all possible because we have a talented staff. We owe a great deal to local-employed staff who, despite their smaller salaries, give of their best on every occasion. The newly-arrived staff and the long-service members work together well to preserve the harmony which has always been a feature of staff relationships at Verdala. Long may it continue for a happy staff means a happy school and the children benefit accordingly.

Staff departures are always sad occasions but I'm certain that children and staff who attended the farewell ceremony for Cdr. K. G. Sumnall, O.B.E., R.N. in May last year will long remember the occasion. It was a simple ceremony with the whole school attending. Cdr. Sumnall was presented with a beautiful silver cigarette box and Mrs. Sumnall received a bouquet of flowers. Their young son, Andrew, also appeared on the platform and received a model dghajsa. Cdr. Sumnall will long be remembered at Verdala for the many improvements he made benefitting children and staff alike and also for his ever pleasant manner to everyone, from the youngest child to the oldest member of staff.

Soon the sun will be shining again and the children will be splashing and playing in "Cdr. Sumnall's" Swimming Pool which must be the most popular piece of equipment ever obtained for the School.

We send our very best wishes to him and his family and wish him every success in his new post.

Cdr. A. J. G. Newbery, Cdr. Sumnall's relief, has now been with us for nearly a year and although a little belated, we extend a very warm welcome to him and hope that he and Mrs. Newbery will have a very happy stay in Malta.

Staff changes are again numerous involving over a dozen teachers. Since the last report we have said goodbye to Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Hickling, Mr. Wise, Mr. Jenkins, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Lawton, Miss Perkins and Mrs. Lewis. Each made a

valuable contribution in their own way to the well-being and happiness of the children of Verdala and for this we thank them very much indeed. They are all missed very much and we wish them every success in their new appointments.

We welcome Mr. Ager, Miss Newman, Miss Leslie, Mrs. Mifsud and Mr. Rowley and wish them all a very happy stay in Malta and hope they will enjoy the happy, friendly atmosphere of Verdala. Finally, we thank Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Griffiths for their invaluable help during staff absences in the last school year.

P. ROSS

INFANT DEPARTMENT

Having read through the magazine with the various contributions from the children and the reports of the numerous activities, I am sure that you will feel that Verdala, in so many ways, speaks for itself.

Most parents are familiar with school through their visits on Open Days, Speech Day and Sports Day, and have seen the Pantomime, Nativity Play or a concert, and are thus aware of so much that goes on behind the scenes. However it is virtually impossible for anyone, parents, children or staff to have a complete picture of the varied programme of a so-called 'normal' day.

Very few parents have seen, for example, a new reception class in our department settling in so happily, they cannot know of all the activities which are developed each day in every class, they have not seen the special groups enjoying their extra practice in reading, nor have they watched the younger children in the swimming pool gaining their initial confidence.

We hope therefore that the unreserved enjoyment of school and the confident progress our children make, not only in the basic skills but also in their general development and interests, reflects all that goes on from day to day.

Last year I mentioned the team-work throughout the whole Infant-Junior staff which is rarely enjoyed to such an extent in any Primary School and to me the most significant step forward during this year has been due to the enthusiasm with which the older children, encouraged and guided by their teachers, have shared their interests, skills and activities with the five to seven year olds.

To illustrate this, we had four recorder players providing a most effective accompaniment in our Nativity Play, the school choir and orchestra have entertained us, and one class, with its own group "The Pied Pipers", held the children spell-bound with a programme organised completely on its own. On another occasion a Junior class stimulated interest in History through their lectures, demonstrations and an exhibition 'Life in Mediaeval England'. All the classes have been given puppet shows, there has been a special performance of class plays arranged for us, and I know we have other events to look forward to before the end of the school year.

Recently there has been a great deal of consideration given to Vertical Planning in Infant schools, and to the advantages

of five to seven year old children developing and working together in one class in a 'family' atmosphere. But here, however, we are convinced for the time being anyway, that our organization in the Infant Department, in chronological age groups, with the integration we have among our own classes plus the valuable co-operation of the Junior Department, is the most beneficial in every way.

To emphasize the co-operation we enjoy I must mention the Tal-Handaq life-savers, who swam so confidently yet unobtrusively behind the Infant children during their marathon thirty yards event in the Swimming Sports.

During the year several members of staff, all of whom made their own special contributions to the general atmosphere of lively development, have left us. We should like to thank Mrs. Instance, Miss Conisbee, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Hitchen, Miss Durnford and Mrs. Lassen, and to wish them every possible happiness in the future.

Meanwhile Mrs. Carrell has joined Mrs. Walters as a remedial teacher, and Miss Taylor, Mrs. Hurlbut, Mrs. Musgrave, Miss Mitchell, Miss Leaning, Mrs. Civil, Mrs. MacDonald, Miss Charlesworth and Miss Langford now complete the team with the members of the Infant staff who have already known Verdala for more than one year.

There has been yet one more change. Until last July Mrs. Rutland was 'Nurse', dealing with the routine medical checks and emergencies of all descriptions. Now Mrs. Baker is continuing the invaluable work in Sick Bay.

To you all may I say on behalf of the children, thank you for your enthusiastic interest, and at the same time add my appreciation of your support through sunshine and storm.

J. GOFFE

PREFECTS — JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Once again it gives me great pleasure to publish the list of Captains and Vice-Captains elected by Houses during the school year 1964/65.

By giving excellent service to the School and accepting their responsibilities cheerfully, those children elected have shown that they fully appreciated the honour bestowed on them by their House.

It is with regret that we realise all of them will be leaving us in July and we wish them every success during the Secondary Stage of their education.

Autumn Term

DRAKE-Captain

David West

HAWKINS-Captain

Rona Smith

NELSON-Captain

George Molden

ST. VINCENT-Captain

Keith Woodcock

Vice-Captain

Ann Quibael

Vice-Captain

Nicholas Wrigley

Vice-Captain

Deborah Parsley

Vice-Captain

Carol Palmer

Spring Term

DRAKE-Captain

Juliet Hammer

HAWKINS-Captain

Nicholas Wrigley

NELSON-Captain

Deborah Parsley

ST. VINCENT-Captain

Carol Palmer

Vice-Captain

Reginald Vaughan

Vice-Captain

Rona Smith

Vice-Captain

George Molden

Vice-Captain

David Stone

Summer Term

DRAKE-Captain

Susan Jeremiah

HAWKINS-Captain

Rosemary West

NELSON-Captain

John Cooley

ST. VINCENT-Captain

Jeremy Thompson

Vice-Captain

Reginald Vaughan

Vice-Captain

Charles Henderson

Vice-Captain

Deborah Parsley

Vice-Captain

Carol Palmer

P. ROSS

MUSIC REPORT

The number of children in the Junior Department who are learning to play instruments is increasing rapidly. One boy has even obtained a musical banana which actually plays a scale. I believe he had to collect the labels of 6,423½ bananas and send them away. The instrument sounds best up a tree. We can't yet find a reason for this.

Mr. Ager has been taking guitar practices this year and the boys have learnt a useful number of chords and have been most helpful as rhythmic backing in our 'orchestral' numbers.

The other instruments played are, recorders — the descant, treble and tenors, and a variety of accordiettas and melodicas. Some children manage with ease to play three of these (not at once) and can also play the piano and the school xylophones and glockenspiel. We shall never know how much the school is contributing towards a life-long pleasure in making music because we cannot collect all the children together in ten or twenty years but it is hoped that musical seeds are being sown.

In the Winter Term we sang and played in the Pantomime, and the Choir helped with the Carol Service. In the Spring Term we participated in the Service Schools' Music Festival, and over ninety children took part in this. To round off the term we put on a concert for parents and used the Musical Festival items and a few new turns in addition. A collection was made and this was given to school funds. Thank you, and thank you all parents who brought children and friends up in their cars.

If your child meets other children from Verdala who are still playing their instruments please write and let us know. We shall enjoy hearing of their musical exploits.

C.J. WHY

NETBALL

The annual Inter-House Netball Tournament was held during the Autumn Term. The games were exciting but St. Vincent and Drake were clearly the stronger sides. St. Vincent eventually came first Drake second with Nelson and Hawkins equal third.

In the Spring Term the Inter Schools matches were played every Saturday morning. Verdala had two teams. The 'A' team played well and the final result was a draw for first place with Luqa. After an exciting 'play-off' between two closely-matched

sides Verdala 'A' played a good game but Luqa proved the eventual winners and so regained the Netball Shield.

The 'B' team was less fortunate but played enthusiastically throughout the term.

'A' Team: Jacqueline Nancarrow, Nuala Biggs, Rona Smith, Helen Flook, Ann Quibael, Juliet Hammer, Deidre King.

'B' Team: Ann Buscombe, Susan Palmer, Carole Olby, Elizabeth Latta, Mary Purdom, Mavis Rockey, Deborah Parsley.

Reserves: Susan Jeremiah, Rosemary West, Rowena Stott, Luzi Rodriguez, Eileen Gray.

SHEENA D. MUTCH

"A" TEAM SOCCER REPORT 1965

The Service Schools League programme was played in the Spring Term of 1965. The "A" team enjoyed a successful season and won the championship for the 4th successive year, losing one and drawing one game in the process.

The competition was closely contested and the issue was in doubt until the final match. A season in which much intelligent and exciting football was played, culminated in a splendid 3 - 0 victory for Verdala "A" over Combined Schools XI.

The following boys represented the "A" team in league matches: George Molden (Captain), Nicholas Wrigley (Vice-Captain), Keith Woodcock, Reggie Kirton-Vaughan, Norman Lock, Colin Crossley, Keith Gauld, Alistair Newman, John Fawcett, Jeremy Daborn, David Stone, David West, Peter West, David Butt, Roger Cleave, David Connolly, Mark Osborne, Andrew Wrigley.

D. AGER

"B" TEAM SOCCER

At the end of the 1964/65 season Verdala 'B' lay 4th in the inter-school competition. Each game was played with skill, determination and enjoyment. The following players represented the 'B' team.

Ian Bonas (3C), Wayne Budding (4C), David Butt (4A), Nigel Fisher (4A), Peter Franklin (2AJ), Charles Henderson (4B), Errol Hosking (4C), Arthur Husk (4A), Andrew Morley (2AS), Ian Morrison (4B), Joseph Mulvaney (3C), Alistair Newman (3B), Bruce Potter (4A), Howard Read (4B), Andrew Wrigley (2AJ).