

FOREWORD

The run down in Malta has inevitably affected the schools and the number of children at Verdala has fallen from 960 in Summer 1964 to 660 this year, with a proportional reduction in teaching staff.

I had feared that this drop in numbers might have affected some of the activities of the school but my fears have proved groundless. Academically our Secondary Selection results were better than ever whilst in the field of sport we retained the Inter School Soccer Trophy. The pantomime and nativity play at Christmas were well up to the standard of previous years and the music festival just as successful.

Although our population is constantly changing children still settle quickly, enjoy their stay with us and seem quite reluctant to leave.

The standard of decoration in the school has improved enormously over the last 12 months and we are grateful to M.P.B.W. and N.R.S. for the help so willingly given. We have a new garden and play area for the youngest infants and we look forward to the Summer term when we shall be able to hoist our new green canvas awning to give shade for out-of-class activities.

The swimming pool was in operation for more days last year than ever before and with a new plastic liner to be fitted this year and filtration plant already overhauled we look forward to a trouble free run.

This year we have started teaching French, with the aid of gramophone records, to the Second Year classes. This has proved enormously successful and we hope to extend it to the other year groups, although there are difficulties in presenting what is really a 3 year course to children who join at all ages.

The work at Verdala is very much of a team effort involving as it does the cleaning and galley staff, the sick bay staff, the secretaries and the teachers. Staff leave and staff join but the spirit of the school carries on. For this reason it would be invidious to mention individuals by name except in very special circumstances. Last summer Miss Harris Candey left after having served at the school from the time it opened. Her devoted teaching, particularly of the children who for one reason or another were behind the others, and her ability as a pianist helped to give Verdala the reputation it now possesses. This year the school will lose Miss Goffe who has been Head of Infants Department since September 1963, Miss Rowe, who has been with us since 1950, and Mr Ousbey who has just completed ten years. They will long be remembered with affection, amongst other things Miss Goffe for the charmingly efficient way in which she ran her department, Miss Rowe for her work with ballet and costumes and Mr Ousbey for his pantomimes. Our best wishes go with them and with all others leaving Verdala. Fortunately Mr Ross stays with us and continues to give me unfailing and

whole-hearted support. His complete grasp of day to day detail ensures the smooth functioning of the school at all times.

The school motto *Ludum Praeter Palman Amare* can be freely translated as 'to love the game rather than the prize.' Verdala children apply this to the game of learning but still manage to carry off a goodly share of the prizes. May it always be so.

A. J. G. Newbery,
Headmaster

STAFF LIST — 1965 — 66

Headmaster

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

Deputy Headmaster and Head of Junior Department

P. Ross

4A	K. Radford	2AS	D. A. Ager, B.Sc. (Econ.)
4B	S. D. Mutch, M.A.	2AJ	A. L. Rowe/Mrs Harkess
4C	G. W. King	2B	A. D. Powell
3A	K. J. F. Woodhams	1AS	L. R. Farrugia-Bell
3B1	D. Rowley	1AJ	S. Leslie
3B2	A. Haffey	1B	J. Hill
3C	J. Ousbey		

Music/Reception C. J. Why, L.R.S.M.

Head of Infant Department

Miss J. Goffe

Infants

1	S. Taylor	6	D. Cleeve
2	L. A. Mitchell	8	P. Langford
3	J. A. Leaning	9	M. Hodby
4	M. A. Stewart	10	G. Sandhurst
5	M. M. Threlfall	11	L. P. Charlesworth

Secretarial Staff

Mrs K. Haines
Miss E. Cotton

School Nurse

Mrs E. Baker, S.R.N.

THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

It is difficult to realise that twelve months have elapsed since my last report on the Junior Department. So often we sigh at the end of a term and look forward to the next one which we assure ourselves will be much quieter. However, with so many activities at Verdala, we are reluctantly coming to the conclusion that the only quiet term at our school is the summer vacation. This is how it should be; each term bringing its own high-lights and pressure, and long may it continue.

When we had twelve-hundred children at Verdala we looked forward to the day when the reduced numbers would allow us more breathing space and more time for the individual approach to the children's problems. Thanks to the continuous efforts of our Headmaster, Commander A. J. G. Newbery, the size of classes has been reduced and the general amenities of the school greatly improved. Through these improvements children have benefitted enormously and all efforts have been made with this end in view.

By concentrating on streaming of classes we have reduced the numbers in the less-able streams and this has given the teachers concerned more time to eradicate stumbling blocks to the children's progress. This is very important in a school which has a continuously changing population.

Within the pages of the magazine parents will read of the many social, cultural, athletic and academic activities taking place at Verdala. Without the fullest co-operation of staff during and outside school hours many of these activities would have ceased. It may not be generally realised that the School's Christmas Show is almost entirely an out-of-school activity. Many evenings were spent rehearsing the cast and the ballet and so interruption of normal classroom work was kept to a minimum. On Saturday mornings during the autumn term we had so many staff preparing scenery, stage properties etc., that finding enough staff to supervise the Saturday morning House Soccer Teams and Netball was almost impossible. Here I must thank the many wives of staff and members of the Infant Department Staff who helped us out. Without their aid we would have been in serious difficulties. However, I am sure that all who saw the finished product will agree that it was effort well spent. Before leaving this section I must add our thanks to all parents and friends who assisted in many ways not the least being the splicing of the stage curtain ropes five minutes before the final performance was due to begin. This excellent co-operation between school and parents is very much appreciated.

I normally list all our school activities but I am certain that your children will have briefed you already and the many arrivals from school on late-buses is proof of their existence.

This is the time of tremendous change in the Junior Departments of Primary schools all over Britain. Parents interested should obtain from H.M.S.O. copies of

The Schools Council Curriculum Bulletin No. 1 "Primary Mathematics," priced 10/- and Working Paper No. 3 "The English Project," priced 3/-. These outline the new approaches to the teaching of Arithmetic, Mathematics and English in the Primary Schools. The Nuffield Trust have projects in Science and French Teaching in the Primary School and bulletins are issued from time to time. Most important of all will be the report of the Plowden Committee due some time in October. This report will cover the whole range of Primary Education and may well alter the age-range structure, by having Infants Departments taking the age-range 5—9 years and Junior Departments from 9—12 years. This will obviously affect the Secondary Schools.

It has always been the policy of the Staff of this School to keep themselves well-informed on all the latest developments in Education and it is therefore not surprising that we have already introduced new Mathematics, English, Science and French Schemes. The new French Scheme so far only affects the 2nd Year Children but next year it will operate in the 3rd and 2nd Year and finally cover the 4th, 3rd and 2nd Years. This has caused some concern among older brothers and sisters but it is essential that new schemes be introduced properly and without haste if they are to succeed. There is a proposal to build a Mathematics and Science Laboratory at the School and should the Plowden Report recommend the raising of the age at the Primary School to 12 years, Verdala should be well-equipped to deal with the recommendation.

Staff changes last year have been much smaller than usual no doubt due to the reduced number of children. We are delighted to welcome Miss Haffey and Mrs Hill and we hope they will both have a very happy stay in Malta. During the year we had to say goodbye to Mr Carrell, Mrs Mifsud, Miss Newman, Mrs Lewis, Miss Harris-Candey, Miss Rowe and for the second time, Miss Perkins, who came in to help us out whilst she was on holiday in Malta. We wish them every success and happiness wherever they may be and thank them all most gratefully for all their efforts on behalf of the Verdala children.

Normally we don't single out individual members of staff for special mention but we feel we must make some exceptions this year. Two of our young ladies have left us and they have left gaps which will be most difficult to fill. I refer to Miss Harris-Candey and Miss Rowe who between them have given over thirty years service to the school.

Miss Harris-Candey has retired and is enjoying her well-earned retirement in Malta. I don't think I have known any teacher to receive so many letters from former pupils. This is a great mark of respect and one well earned, especially when one remembers that Miss Harris-Candey taught so many of our academically less-able pupils. The letters she receives are a tribute to her skill and her understanding of the needs of these children. She is also an excellent pianist and she has delighted children, parents and staff with her playing at many Christmas Shows.

Miss Rowe has left us to return to the U.K. and it will be a very fortunate group of children who find her on the Staff of their school. Her skill in teaching Drama and Ballet was remarkable and parents who have seen Christmas Shows will agree that her dressing of the cast, and her training of the dancers, really were outstanding.

Both are very sadly missed and Verdala is not quite the same without them.

Finally we thank Mrs Walters, Mrs Cook and Mrs Griffiths for their invaluable help during Staff absences.

P. Ross

INFANT DEPARTMENT

Seldom do we ever have a moment to look back at the events and developments of the past days and weeks, let alone terms and a whole school year.

It is, for example, difficult now to visualize the fifteen Infant classes we had during last Summer Term. Now we have just ten classes, almost completely re-organized geographically. The four reception classes are in adjoining rooms, one of them has been completely re-built and the other three have French windows, all opening on to a garden and play area.

A number of Parents saw our children enjoying their running events on Sports Day, displaying their various styles in the Swimming Sports and taking part in the Nativity Play.

Now, at the end of March we have just had the Infant Service Schools' Music Festival, held at Verdala this year, with the six schools singing songs together and every school contributing an individual item.

These are special occasions on the school calendar, always involving preparation and extra effort on the part of the children, but at the same time demonstrating the consistent training they have in working together and playing together.

Every 'ordinary' day brings something new to every single one of the children, and here I must emphasize one particular point. We are very aware that many of our children come home and say, "We have played all day" and there are still a few parents who really believe this to be true, interpreting 'play' as the children being kept occupied and nothing more. These parents look back to their own Infant school days when rows of sums and pages of copy writing meant 'work' and I do suggest that they should have more confidence in the methods of today.

I am sure that the contributions from the Infant Department in this magazine will illustrate that it is through activity and discussion, listening and reasoning together that the children have learnt to express themselves so fluently and vividly.

Mrs McDonald, Mrs Hurlbut, Mrs Musgrave, Mrs Carrell, Miss Perkins and Mrs Civil all did valuable work during their stay here and we should all like to thank them and to wish them every possible success and happiness in the future.

Miss Cleeve joined the Staff in September and Mrs Sandhurst and Mrs Winfield in January and we do appreciate all that they have already done here.

Mrs Potgeiter, our visiting Speech Therapist, has been doing invaluable work with a small group of children during the Spring Term, and I know that the parents of these children have been most grateful for the expert guidance and help she has given.

At the end of the Summer Term, Miss Stewart, Miss Threlfall and I shall be leaving Verdala, and I am sure I am speaking for the three of us when I say we shall never forget the happy, healthy, enthusiastic and responsive children we have known here and their most co-operative and appreciative parents.

It will have been my special privilege to have been able to 'share' ALL the Infant children for three years. During this time we have had the closest possible co-operation from the Junior Department and I must thank Mr Ross, particularly, for all his encouragement and help. And to Commander Newbery I should like to express my appreciation of his patient understanding of our Infant children.

Nevertheless, none of the progress we have made and the successes we have achieved would have been possible without the continuous efforts of all the Infant teachers and I shall always remember with gratitude their team-spirit and loyalty.

J. Goffe.

PREFECTS — JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

We congratulate those children who have held the offices of Captain or Vice-Captain of their Houses during 1965/66.

They have maintained the very high standards set by their predecessors and it is with regret that we remember that they will all be leaving Verdala in September to go on to the Secondary Stage of their education.

We wish them every success in their new schools and thank them for their invaluable help during their last year at Verdala.

<i>Autumn Term</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Vice Captain</i>
Drake	John Woodhams	Carol Emmett
Hawkins	Colin Crossley	Anne Caley
Nelson	Bridget Kirkpatrick	Alistair Newman
St. Vincent	John Morgan	Glenys Evans
<i>Spring Term</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Vice Captain</i>
Drake	John Woodhams	Carol Emmett
Hawkins	Anne Caley	Colin Crossley
Nelson	Alistair Newman	Bridget Kirkpatrick
St. Vincent	Donald Stratton	Carla Kennedy
<i>Summer Term</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Vice Captain</i>
Drake	John Woodhams	Sally Forrester
Hawkins	Colin Crossley	Anne Caley
Nelson	Bridget Kirkpatrick	Stephen King
St. Vincent	Vivien Dixon	Donald Stratton

P. Ross.

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY GROUP 1965

The Group met as usual during 1965 and gained a creditable number of awards.

We thank the Staffs of Ricasoli and Kalafrana Lidos for their invaluable assistance during the season. The use of both Lidos became necessary when our timetable was slightly upset by the appearance of a "large fish" in Grand Harbour. The final practice and tests were quietly transferred to Kalafrana from Ricasoli but on arriving at "Kala" we discovered that the "large fish" had followed us round.

However, we eventually completed the tests and the following children were awarded the Elementary Certificate

Anthony Vassie
Peter Herbert
Andrew Pannell
Keith Woodcock
David Butt
Anthony Billett
Pierre Shotbolt
John Cooley
Timothy Buckland
Kevin Wolfe
Reggie Vaughan

Lynn Hoffmeyer
Eileen Gray
Margot Laughton
Susan Palmer
Carole Palmer
Anne Buscombe
Mary Purfield
Catherine Moyle
Timothy Jefferys
David Stone

Roger Perry attended all the practices and was due to take the tests later. We are sure that he will now be a holder of the award.

STAFF AWARDS

Special mention must be made of the awards gained by the Staff of Verdala. Courses for Staff began last year and we hope they will continue again in 1966. Congratulations to all staff concerned.

Bronze Medallion
Miss A. Newman
Miss S. Taylor
Bronze Cross
Miss S. Taylor
Award of Merit
Miss S. Taylor
Mr J. Why

Instructor's Certificate
Mr R. Carrell

Examiner's Certificate
Mr R. Carrell

P. Ross.

MY FIRST YEAR AS SCHOOL NURSE

Came the morning of the 15th September, 1964; this was the day I had been waiting for since the previous July when I had been appointed Verdala School Nurse. What would it bring forth? I had nursed old and young, very ill and not so ill, but never healthy children before. What would it be like? I was soon to know.

My first morning, which fortunately for me was a record, otherwise I am sure I would not be trying to write this article, I had 97 minor cases in the space of four hours! ! ! It was like a conveyor belt, in and out and it was only when I heard one small child say to a friend, "She wears a thing on her head," that I realised it was curiosity bringing them in.

Nurse! Nurse! How well I remember my first serious case, surrounded by crowds of children many of whom were collected en route. I had already been informed that a little boy was bleeding "ever such a lot," and went to meet him. Everyone tried to tell me at the same time what had happened. The blood was all over the place; I have never seen so much and as usual no hanky (Mothers please note!) When the blood was washed off it proved to be just a simple nose bleed.

My busiest time was in winter, especially wet days. One has to see Verdala on a wet day to believe it. Puddles, puddles everywhere. My clothing cupboard was soon empty as one bedraggled infant after another came to be changed. Although we keep them in as much as we can on wet days it is suprising how quickly some children can get wet in just going across the playground for dinner, and quite often my clothing never gets returned either!

Each term I inspect the children's hair and in the summer term their feet before they go swimming. It is lovely seeing them in the water, and better still to go in with them as I try to do with the Infants, and it is very seldom you see one cry.

When I first came the climbers were a source of worry to me. There were visions of fractured bones daily but it turned out to be blistered hands from the rope climbers. Of course in my year I had a few fractures and how good those children were; far better than many an adult I have attended to.

Dental inspections were done in the autumn term and medical examinations by the School Doctor on an average of once a week. For this, the nurse weighs and measures the children and gives them a routine eye test.

Some children took off bandages from sore fingers and hands etc., which had been so carefully put on by Mum and then came to me for treatment, which I did. Judge my amazement when I received letters telling me not to touch "such and such" as it is being attended to. Now I generally ask for a note from Mum before interfering. The young scamps.

There were the polio sugar lumps to issue to the children requiring them. For this Mr Mayo, the medical clerk, gave me great assistance, because believe it or not some say they do not like sugar and we have had a hard job getting them to take it!

One of my amusing incidents was when Commander Newbery was speaking to me in Sick Bay and a little Infant appeared. When I asked him what was the matter, this was his reply, "Well, I went and couldn't, then I could, but in the wrong place." Exit the Headmaster, while small boy and nurse retire to the bathroom. Fortunately there is always plenty of hot water for such accidents as these.

Well I have been here nearly 18 months now and am I happy? Yes, very, very happy. When a small child puts her little arms round you and says, "I do love you, you are just like my Grannie," what greater compliment can anyone have?

NETBALL

During the Autumn term, the inter-house Netball Tournament was held. The games were played with enthusiasm and there was great excitement at the final match between St. Vincent and Drake. St. Vincent proved to be the strongest of the houses and so retained the Shield for another year.

In the Spring Term, the Inter-School matches were played every Saturday morning. Verdala had two teams again this year. The "A" team started the season rather badly by losing 7—6 to St. Andrews and drawing 4 all with Luqa. By the end of the term, however, the "A" team was playing extremely well and at the final match against St. Andrews, the standard of play was very high indeed, with the "A" team scoring 13 goals to St. Andrews 1. The Inter School's cup, however, had already been lost to us and for the second successive year it remains in the possession of Luqa.

The "B" team played some good exciting games particularly at the match at Luqa when the champion team was held to a 2 all draw.

"A" Team

Sally Forrester (4A)

Nuala Biggs (4A)

Vivien Dixon (4B)

Anne Caley (4A)

Carol Mead (4C)

Christiane Morris (3A)

Susan Lloyd (3B)

Pat Gavigan (4A)

Reserves :

Jane Barr

Vicky Payne

Linda Pattison

Pat Murphy

"B" Team

Glenys Evans (4A)

Isabel Sandhurst (3B1)

Elizabeth Hoffmeyer (4C)

Maxine Roberts (3B2)

Anne Macmillan (4C)

Janet Rule (4A)

Pauline Hoffmeyer (4C)

Daphne Cleeve and Sheena Mutch

"A" TEAM SOCCER REPORT

Once again Verdala "A" won the Inter-Service Primary Schools Soccer trophy. As in previous years the competition was keenly contested with the result still in doubt until the last game. The boys played good football at times but could not score enough goals. There was plenty of individual talent shown but far too little team work. These failings very nearly cost them the championship in the final games against greatly improved Tighe and St. Andrews sides.

The following boys played regularly for the team :—

Colin Crossley
Michael Conlan
Nigel Lark
Brian Winkworth
Nicholas Ferrari
Alistair Newman

Mark Cahill
Danny Clarke
Joey Mulvaney
Nigel Jenkins
Andrew Morley

D. Ager

"B" TEAM SOCCER REPORT

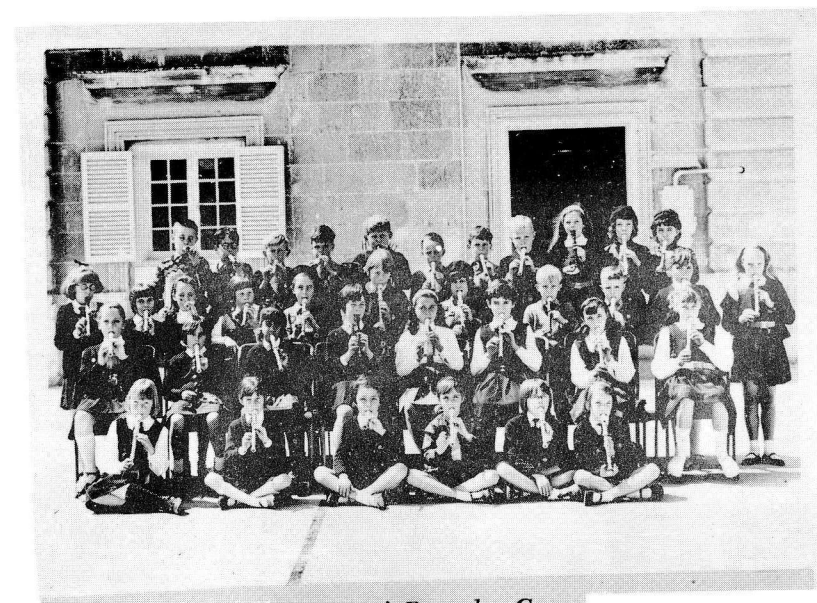
During 1966 Season Verdala "B" enjoyed their games against the Army and Air Force teams.

Their determination in defence held Luqa to a draw away from home and frightened supporters of the "A" team in a game where the "A" team needed victory in their championship bid.

The following boys represented Verdala B.

Mark Holloway (Capt.)
John Hadley
Tony Steel
Leslie Hawthornthwaite
Terence Halliman
Stephen Griffiths
George Mattingley
Christopher Walker
Stephen King
Trevor Barter
Michael Halliman
Keith Wigglesworth
Stephen Crawford
Richard Means
Bruce Emmett

Centre Forward
Inside Forward
Outside Right
Inside Forward
Outside Left
Inside Forward
Half Back
Half Back
Half Back
Half Back
Half Back
Full Back
Full Back
Goalkeeper
Full Back



Beginners' Recorder Group



The School Ballet Club