

# CHALK TO MOUSE PROJECT OUTLINE

This heritage project examines and records the history and development of 200 years of education through the establishment of church schools. The project will examine the difference that it made to children, teaching practices and communities. It will detail what life was like during those 200 years and record the changes for school children; communities; and teachers; and records social history and important events.

Another aspect of the project is to record the development and role of The National Society. At the start of Queen Victoria's reign only the children of the well off went to school and in poor families even very young children did some kind of work. The only education most children got was Sunday school at church each Sunday.

The project will focus on the four participating schools - High Hurstwood Primary School, High Hurstwood, East Sussex; St. Marks, Hadlow Down, East Sussex; St. Margarets School, Angmering, West Sussex, and St. Pauls School, City of Brighton - and investigate the 200 years of each individual schools development, and its impact upon the community.

As Parliament gradually cut the hours, which children had to work, churches started to provide day schools for children to go to during the week. Most were Church of England Schools and were usually built near the parish church. The National Society was created in 1811 with the mission of founding a Church school in every parish in England and Wales, forty years later; the Church had established 17,000 schools.

## ***School Log Books - what are they?***

After the 1870 Forster's Education Act all schools receiving annual grants had to keep a school diary, or log book. The diary or log book had to be 'stoutly bound' (strong) and have at least 500 pages! The Headteacher had to make an entry in the log book at least once a week. Entries included information about daily school life, attendance, illness and any other significant incidents. It was very important to keep the log book up to date and accurate as the School Inspector would check them on every visit

Until fairly recently each Church School kept a daily diary of happenings within their school – these logs are now held in the County Archives and this is where the volunteers are being asked to target their research.

Research Information needed for the project:

Date the school Opened – and any information relevant to this

Details of interesting activities during the Victorian period that can be included in their particular School's Victorian Day drama and recorded in the project's booklet

Details of other 'happenings' within the school's history recorded in the project's booklet and possibly used in the film

Any references to 'National Schools' in general

*If you find anything during your research of the log books that you would like to explore further, you can make use of other types of documents to focus your research and develop your skills further*

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