

School Days



Picture of Stoke School taken in the 1890s, note no extension on the school and no houses on the left side of Castle Street, also note the large house in Bonnies (Bonnings) Lane which has now been demolished.

A Brief History of Stoke sub Hamdon Village Schools

The first documented village school is the building with the clock opposite the Fleur de Lis Inn, built on the site of a village Pound. The foundation stone was laid on May 6th 1831, the building and its maintenance was paid for by a local landowner, Thomas Hawksworth and his friends and was supported by subscription and pupils fees. By 1847 there were 77 boys, 93 girls and 16 teachers (needless to say attendance was staggered). There were no desks only benches, slate and pieces of chalk. There were also various Sunday Schools run by the Methodist, Congregational and Anglican Churches. Miss Ashford ran a Dame School in the 1860s and 70s, which was situated on the corner opposite Oaktree House, charges were 2d a week. Due to the 1870 Education Act, when schooling for children up to the age of 14 years became compulsory, a committee was formed to organise the building of the present Primary School, which was opened in June 1876.

The school was supported by subscriptions, a Government grant and pupils fees, unique to this area glove-cutters children had to pay more, 3 pence per week for the eldest and 2 pence for other children in the family, as compared to other occupations in the village. The school was taken over by the Education Board in 1899 and the infant school introduced. Due to overcrowding the school was enlarged in 1901 and it has been a junior school since 1940, after Stanchester Senior School was opened in 1939. In the 1930s children came to Stoke from Norton, Martock, Chiselborough, Odcombe and Tintinhull, the girls to learn cooking and the boys woodwork. Up until the 1940s the playground was divided by a wall down the middle, boys on one side, girls and infants on the other. The dining room and old school kitchens have now become classrooms, offices and a staff room. At present there are c 164 pupils attending the school.



All Saints Church Hall, built as a school in 1831, caught fire around 1861 and rebuilt. Ceased being a school in 1876 when the new board school opened in Castle Street, became a church in 1926 and is now used as a venue for the youth club and other organisations. The opening ceremony for the Montacute made clock was April 1898.



Picture of the school taken after the extension was built in 1901, note the skins drying in the field at the back of Fane's Farm, North Street - demolished in the 1930s and incorporated into the garden of 'The Gables'. Part of this area has now been added to the school grounds, originally to allow the children to work their own gardens and now used as a play and sports area.



Modern picture of the school, taken 2003, showing the different layout in the playground, making the area more interesting and varied for the pupils.



Castle School pupils taken pre 1905.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Ethel Tavener 2. Nellie Dodge 3. Evelyn Chant 4. Elsie Trotman 5. Daniel Chant (Teacher) 6. George Newman 7. Reg Morgan 8. Palmer 9. Bob Taylor 10. Horace Jones 11. Lionel Brown 12. Trotman 13. Hubert Dalwood 14. Fred Taylor **2nd row:** 1. Percy Hallett 2. Reg Batstone 3. Percy Wines 4. Harry Gold 5. Donald Taylor 6. Miss Ethel Fox (Teacher) 7. Joe Grinter 8. Will Gaylard 9. **3rd row:** 1. Olive Brown 2. Lucy Clark 3. Lucy Walters 4. Hilda 5. Dorothy Jacobs 6. Olive Thorne 7. Hilda Cridland 8. Lily Murley 9. Flo Morgan 10. Mildred Taylor 11. Elsie Ward 12. Leah Palmer 13. Amy Pippard 14. Cis Thorne 15. Lily Denman **4th row:** 1. Edward Isaacs 2. Bessie Welsh 3. 4. Lily Chaffey 5. Eddie Gillman 6. Kate Boswell 7. Hubert Ryall 8. Osborne 9. 10. Hensleigh Male.



Castle School c1920.

Front row: 5. Ron Male. Unfortunately no other names known.



Castle School Miss Fox's class c1924.

2nd row: 5. Rhoda Terrell. Unfortunately no other names known.



Castle School Choir 1926/27 when they tied with Reckleford School, Yeovil to win first place in an Area Singing Competition.
Left to right. Top row: 1. Don Palmer 2. Lyndon Nelms 3. Jack Chant 4. Cyril Barnes 5. Frank Wakely 6. Lloyd Smith **2nd row:** 1. Mr W. Biggs 2. Gordon Geard 3. Wyn Palmer 4. Florie Applyby 5. Mary Dyer 6. Harry Bussell 7. Roma Hallet 8. Horace Turner 9. Gertie Banbury 10. Margaret Hellier 11. Kathy Boucher 12. Laura Pittard 13. Ted Hellier **3rd row:** 1. Miss Doris Weller 2. Murial Dodge 3. Kath Sweet 4. Ben Lawrence 5. Rose Margetts 6. Eileen Palmer 7. Edna Hellier 8. Audrey Dodge 9. Lily Holt 10. Joyce Palmer 11. Winnie Best **4th row:** 1. Rita Budge 2. Olga Male 3. Olive Gummer 4. Mary White 5. Vera Trotman.



Castle School Pantomime 1935/36.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Dennis Sweet 2. Violet Murley 3. Muriel Welsh 4. Ines Boswell 5. Gertrude Gillett 6. Ena Ansell 7. Adie Trotman 8. Jack Phillips
2nd row: 1. Queenie Wardle 2. Dolly Swain 3. Mary Callow 4. Doreen Gold 5. 6. Marion Baker 7. Betty Broom 8. Donald Margetts (Father Time)
3rd row: 1. Maurice Wardle 2. Eric White 3. Norman Talboys 4. Ruby George 5. Joyce Isaacs 6. Rhoda Smith 7. Doreen Talboys
4th row: 1. Joan Gove 2. Joy Adams 3. Betty Talboys 4. Edna Davis 5. Joan Hawkins 6. Betty Callow 7. Dennis Trott 8. Eileen Tulk 9. Eric Swain.



Castle School 1938.

Left to right. Top row: 1. Bernard Wardle 2. Dennis Richards 3. Tommy England 4. Joe Trotman 5. Connie Morris
2nd row: 1. Barbara Creek 2. Doreen Thorne 3. Joyce Turner 4. Barbara Hann 5. Sonia Grinter
3rd row: 1. Douglas George 2. Raymond Palmer 3. Ron Stockford 4. Bryant Chant 5. John Warry
4th row: 1. Tony Minchington 2. Dorothy Gaylard 3. Doreen Lawrence 4. Basil Broom
 5. John Tanswell.



Other school activities, chickens in the playground, note the dividing wall between playgrounds - middle boy Vernon Smith, next right Dorrian Hallett, late 1920s.



Castle School Sports, Mudord Road Recreational Field 1948/49, teacher Mr Thomas.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Colin Dike 2. John Grinter 3. Derwent Swain 4. Dave Plympton 5. Pete Raison 6. Cicely Hockey
 7. Valerie Cornelius 8. Heather Palmer 9. Maureen Male 10. Thelma Murless 11. Margaret Dodge
2nd row: 1. Trevor Stuckey 2. Peter Fowler 3. Michael Welsh 4. Margaret Gold 5. Carol Pattemore 6. Pat Wakely 7. Vera Stone 8. Ann Dodge
3rd row: 1. John Downton 2. Michael Sharp 3. Tony Hallett 4. Christopher Roberts 5. Malcolm Young 6. Della Court 7. Janet Little 8. Mary Fowler.



Castle School early 1950s.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Michael Pollard 2. Roger Hockey 3. Christine Plympton 4. David Brodie 5. Susan Waterman 6. Michael Spearpoint 7. Alan Dyer 8. Veronica Williams 9. Diana Hooper 10. Hilary Sharman **2nd row:** 1. Wendy Stokes 2. Peter Little 3. Lawrence Turner 4. Michael Reyland 5. Michael Vincent 6. 7. Julia Snelgrove 8. Roger Brown 9. Pat Pemberton 10. Stephen Sharman 11. 12. Colin Middleditch 13. Edward Venn 14. Joan Bugler **3rd row** 1. Irene Mounter 2. Dawn Palmer 3. Heather Webb 4. Peter Welch 5. Francis Perkins 6. Rodney Evans 7. Gillian Sweet 8. Irene Parsons 9. Roy Pearse 10. Ian Pemberton **4th row:** 1. Joy Webb 2. Jean Constable 3. Pat Allen 4. Myrtle Stephenson 5. Anthony Bennett 6. Michael Stuckey 7. Paul Glover 8. Michael Harris 9. Susan Berryman 10. Una Edmunds 11. Sue Mortimer 12. Dennis Gilman 13. George Thorne.



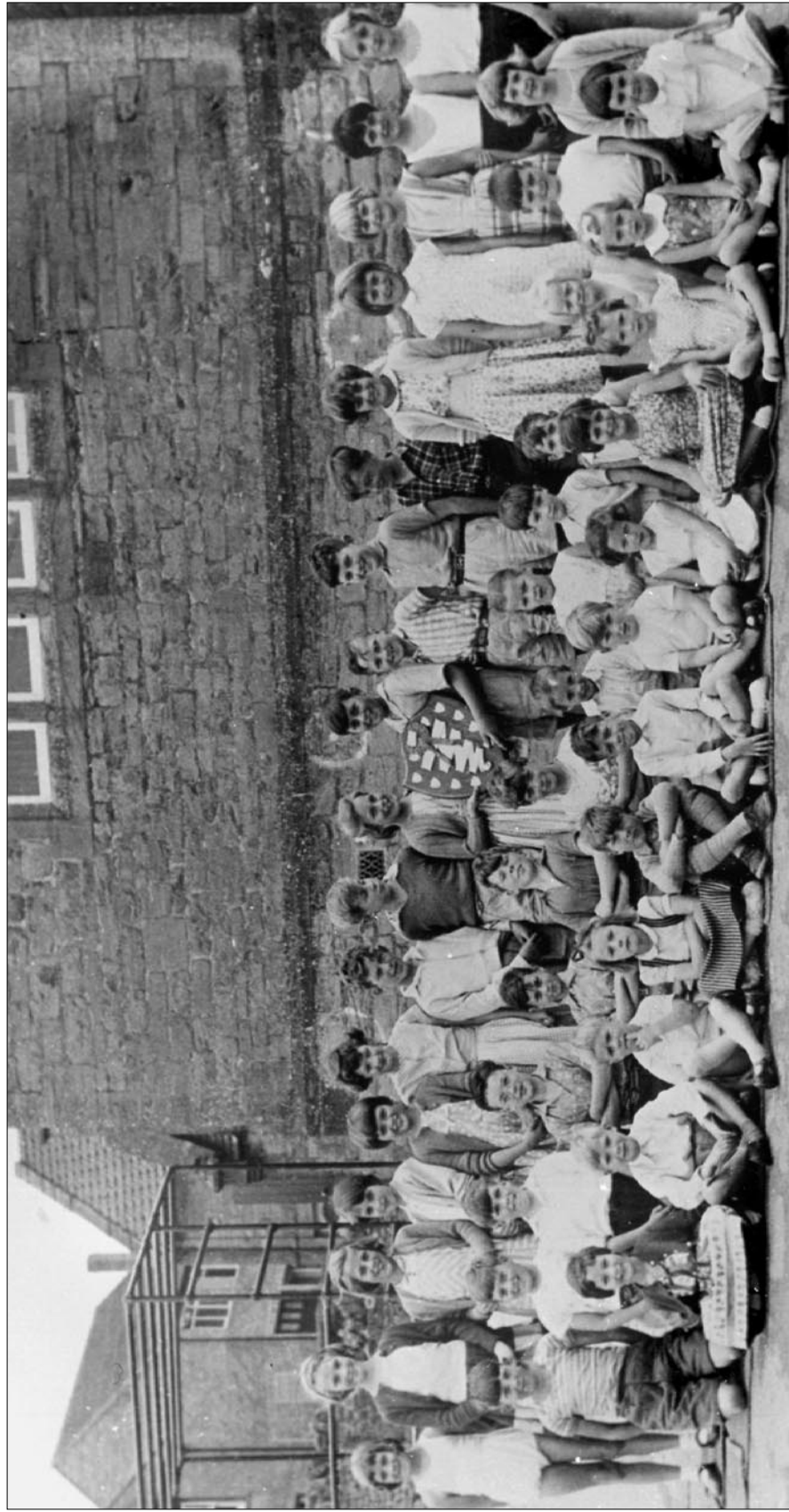
School Concert 'The Pirates of Castle Street' 1954.

Left to right. Top row: 1. Keith Thorne 2. John Dodge 3. Steven Radley 4. Teddy Williams 5. Clifford Creek 6. Clive Stuckey 7. Michael Sweet 8. Richard Lawrence 9. Terry Kellow 10. Gerald Parker **2nd row:** 1. Peter Bussell 2. Sheriden Dike 3. Elizabeth Sweet 4. Valerie Gold 5. Carol Jeanes 6. Carol White 7. Christine Haines 8. Wendy Fowler 9. John Pittard 10. Harold Snelgrove **3rd row** 1. Jill Dicks 2. Valerie Mounter 3. Heather Harmsworth 4. Irene Parsons 5. Pat Batten 6. Pearl Wren 7. Carol Chant 8. Diana Bond 9. Diana Dunford 10. Janet Farrent.



Castle School June 1955, class teacher Mrs L. Warr.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. David Kelloway 2. 3. Richard Bradley 4. Peter Welch 5. Brian Davis 6. Robert Mattock 7. Neil Bowron 8. Graham Giles 9. Brent Watts 10. Graham Andrews **2nd row:** 1. Pat Faulkner 2. Heather Webb 3. Pauline Williams 4. Maureen Grainger 5. Sandra Fishlock 6. Christine Chant 7. Joan Bugler 8. 9. Marleen Pittard 10. Jennifer Lawrence 11. Christine Osborne 12. Marilyn Dodge 13. Jennifer Radley **3rd row:** 1. Ian Allan 2. Andrew Mounter 3. Barry Derek 4. Terry Harmsworth 5. Paul Comer 6. Rodney Clark 7. Allan Griffiths 8. Brian Wilmington 9. Kim Dyke 10. Tony Shoemark 11. Andrew Nelms **4th row:** 1. Denuta Szwada 2. Sandra Wilson 3. Andrea Wilson 4. Ruth Bennet 5. Sandra Laws 6. Janice Knight 7. Judith Newman 8. Wendy Taylor 9. Gwennydd Newton 10. Sylvia England.



Castle School 1959/60, Blue Team Winners on Sports Day.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Jennifer Radley 2. Janet Morgan 3. Sheila Pittard 4. 5. Jane Lamy 6. Delia Rashley 7. Michael Bolton 8. Timothy Penny 9. Lizzie Hooper 10. Michael Jackson 11. Tony Baverstock 12. Roger Fane 13. David Gosney 14. Doreen Pittard 15. Jackie Pilton 16. Sandra Wilson 17. Caroline Saunders 18. Jeanette Sparpoint **2nd row:** 1. Roger Court 2. John Glover 3. Dale Sutcliffe 4. Brian Kelloway 5. Richard Dunford 6. Jonathan Russell 7. Nigel Clark 8. Desmond Smith 9. Celia Palmer 10. Michael Regan 11. Robert Venn 12. Joyce Goad 13. Paul Broderick 14. Caroline Minchington **3rd row:** 1. Sally Brooks 2. Martin Clark 3. John McDonald 4. Gillian Brake 5. John Creek 6. Barry Pantling 7. Grant Palmer 8. Rosemary Rashley 9. Sylvia Pittard 10. Kay Margetts 11. Bridget Nelms 12. Marilyn Thorne.



Castle School Sports 1962/3.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Mary Ansell 2. Janet Gray 3. Barry Cullimore 4. Andre Clark 5. Joyce Goad 6. Ann Regan 7. Graham Wilkinson 8. Michael Stone 9. Phillip Pittard 10. Stephen Caines 11. Derek Court 12. Shaun Phillips 13. Martin Phillips 14. Jonathan Dallimore 15. Caroline MacDonald **2nd row:** 1. Ray Court 2. Nigel Strickland 3. Bridget Nelms 4. Marilyn Caller 5. Richard Dodge 6. John Warry 7. Nigel Pike 8. Jeremy Sutcliffe 9. Trudy Sutcliffe 10. Jane Bussell.



Stoke School boys 1970 at Huish Football Ground now Tesco's Supermarket.



Castle School
Class 1, 1985.
Rows left to right.
Top row:
1. Steven Baker
2. Helen Coward
3. Natasha Elliot
4. Kerry Law
5. Alison Magill
6. Johanna Stockford
7. Darren White
2nd row:
1. Darren Pilton
2. Peter Vincent
3. Lee Sanders
4. Robin Strickland
5. Jon Forsyth
6. Daniel Lavery
7. Kingsley Davis
8. Alex Kempton-Jones
3rd row:
1. Mark Abbott
2. Nathan Bush
3. Richard White
4. Scott Court
5. Nicholas Reyland
6. Daniel Dunford
7. Marcus Bennett
8. Jonathan Last
4th row:
1. Tina Laurence
2. Suzanne Bradshaw
3. Caroline Baker
4. Patricia Roff
5. Mr A. Chatfield
6. Rachel Francis
7. Angela Davey
8. Sarah Baker
9. Candace Graef.



Castle School Class 6, 1994.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. James Smith 2. Nella Hughes 3. Jessica Rainford 4. Laura Hyde 5. Martin Dodge **2nd row:** 1. Mrs H. Rainford 2. Matthew Jeffery 3. Marc Brown 4. Becky Spearpoint 5. Natasha Witcombe 6. Becky Mitchum 7. Vicky Salter 8. Stephen Scarsbrook 9. Martin Coombes 10. Mrs K. Crate (Teacher) **3rd row:** 1. Christopher Parker 2. Nick Boon 3. Hollie-Martine Giles 4. Matthew Law 5. Leah Jones 6. Emma Brodie 7. Mark Nelms 8. Alex Thorne **4th row:** 1. Stuart Tayler 2. Keri Cooke 3. Luke Stidson 4. Laurence Mather 5. Robert Hunter-Flynn 6. Michael Cable 7. David Archer 8. Louise Spearpoint 9. Ian Goad.



Castle School Queen's Jubilee Year, Class 6, 2002.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Marcus Lloyd 2. Sam Haines 3. Charlotte Folkard 4. Marie Haines **2nd row:** 1. Hennie Kitchen 2. Melanie Clarke 3. Gemma Abbott 4. Fiona Wood 5. Hannah Stidson 6. Abigail Flatt 7. Tom Law **3rd row:** 1. Mr. A. Halford 2. Chris Rogers 3. Shaun Jeanes 4. Luke Webb 5. Chris Stevens 6. Will Ratcliffe 7. Kimberley Cornelius 8. Robbie Grabham 9. Jonny Orwin **4th row:** 1. Simon Boulter 2. Gemma Levy 3. Kitty Newman 4. Thomas Doble 5. Bethan Mathieson 6. Sarah Kalloway 7. Ben Oliver 8. Charnaine Taylor 9. Sophie Geldhard.



View of original Stanchester School buildings taken late 1950s, note pupils vegetable plots, top left corner. School opened March 18th 1939.



Stanchester School Teachers 1956.

Left to right. Top row: 1. Ann Braxton 2. Alan Cornelius 3. Harold Workman 4. May Trask 5. Victor Short 6. Steve Stephenson 7. Basil Sutcliffe 8. Mrs Gibbs (Secretary) 9. Jerry Emmanuel 10. David George 11. Mervin WynWilliams 12. Kenny Diamond 13. Anthea Willongby **2nd row:** 1. Enid Milson 2. Marion Bright 3. Lilian Barnard 4. Elsie Richmond 5. Walter Biggs (Head Master) 6. Bill Cheatel 7. Mabel Pullen 8. Ruth Vaux 9. Katie Lock.