

Edwardian School Activity



Scramble, our museum mascot, is bringing families **Scramble School** at home, but **Bentley Priory** was in fact an actual school during the **Edwardian era**.

What was school like then and how does it compare to school and home learning now?

Bentley Priory Girls' School

In 1908 Bentley Priory was leased to Frances de Tenac to be used as a girls' school. It was a very **prestigious school** attended by young ladies from wealthy families. The school housed 70 boarders and flourished until the early 1920's.



The focus of the school was **music**; there were 20 pianos in sound-proofed rooms and three of the eleven teachers were music teachers. The girls also had **golf** lessons from Harry Cottrell; a successful golfer who tragically died during the First World War alongside his two brothers.

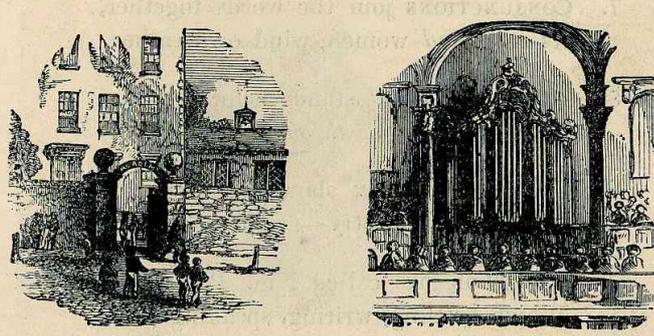


A FAMILY OF PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS WHO HAVE DIED FOR THE HONOR OF THE GAME
 William Cottrell (center), for five years professional at the Plymouth Country Club, collapsed with the Canadiana in April and met his death in France in September. His two brothers were both killed during the battle of Gallipoli. Henry (left) was wounded five times and Albert, missing him, went back, and while blasting his brother's wounds, was himself killed. A second, and this time fatal, bullet found Henry's stomach later.

After the great war, probably due to the general financial depression, the school failed. At the end of the winter term 28 December 1924 the school closed its gates for good.

School in the Edwardian Era

Life at school in the Edwardian era was very different to how it is now and children were quite lucky to be at school at all. Only in the 20th century were young children no longer regularly expected to work alongside adults. By 1918 school attendance was compulsory and the school leaving age was raised from 12 to 14 years old.



A SCHOOL. AN ORGAN.

THE NINE PARTS OF SPEECH.

1. Three little words you often see
Are ARTICLES—*a, an, and the.*
2. A NOUN's the name of anything,
As *school, or garden, hoop, or swing.*
3. ADJECTIVES tell the kind of noun,
As *great, small, pretty, white, or brown.*
4. Instead of Nouns the PRONOUNS stand—
Her head, his face, your arm, my hand.
5. VERBS tell of something to be done—
To *read, count, sing, laugh, jump, or run.*
6. *How* things are done the ADVERBS tell,
As *slowly, quickly, ill, or well.*

In Edwardian schools classes were taken in the **'three R's'** (reading, writing and arithmetic) and there were also **physical education** lessons ('drill'). Girls were generally taught sewing and needlework.



Reading and writing

Have a go at writing the text from 'The Nine Parts of Speech' on the copybook paper to practice your handwriting:

Children should be seen and not heard

A series of horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of 20 lines in total. The first line is pre-filled with the cursive text "Children should be seen and not heard". The remaining 19 lines are blank for the student to practice writing the text.

Physical Education

This is a photograph of a physical exercise display.

Look at:

- the uniform the girls are wearing
- the equipment they are using

How does it compare to your PE kit and the equipment you use at school?



Drills

PE involved a series of formal exercises such as marching on the spot, arm swinging, trunk bending, skipping, etc. It was thought to help children follow instructions, improve coordination and health.

*Have a go at this **Edwardian Drill Lesson**:*

[Edwardian drill lesson exercises \(johnmalam.co.uk\)](http://johnmalam.co.uk)