

Eilean Shona School

Fort William Archives, February 2011, Gordon C Barr

GB3218/C1/L/5/3/38a

First page, 1 January 2 1878
Last page, 302 July 22 1904

1878 (page 1)

January 2 “Eilean Shona Public School opened on Wednesday morning in charge of Margaret McInnes Assistant from St. Michael’s School Parkhead, Glasgow, who sat at Christmas Examination for Certificate. Result not yet known. The most of the week spent in understanding the arrangements of the classes. Attendance fair. School opened and closed with prayer.”

January 11 ‘Little progress has been made this week as much of it has been taken to get Names registered and books in proper working order. Attendance good.’

January 18 ‘All the classes taken together on Thursday morning for a special drill in Numeration and Notation’.

January 25 ‘Mr Ralston Clerk Clerk of the School Board visited during recreation and waited to see the children brought into school. Two new children admitted.’

February 8 ‘A new child admitted’.

February 15 ‘A new child admitted on Monday.’

March 1 ‘Children working with good spirit.’

March 15 ‘Margaret McInnes Certificated.’

April 5 ‘Attendance not so good this week owing to a number of the Scholars having gone to work’.

April 19 ‘Attendance very irregular this week chiefly owing to the children kept at home to work’.

May 10 ‘School an hour late of being opened on Monday morning. Scholars had no recreation in order to make up for lost time. A new child admitted on Monday’.

June 21 ‘Rev. Mr McDonald visited on Monday and examined all the classes. School closed on Thursday being Holy-day of obligation’.

August 16 ‘School examined and inspected. 22 children present. ? Boyd, Hon. Inspector’.

October 4 ‘Inspector Report. “The result are very satisfactory. Wm. Ralston, Clerk”.

November 29 ‘Attendance very irregular chiefly owing to bad weather’.

1879 (page 17)

January 8 ‘School closed on Wednesday afternoon. Children finding it impossible to attend owing to bad weather and depth of snow’.

January 24 ‘School reopened having been closed for ten days owing to the continued bad weather and snow’.

April 18 ‘Scholars had no singing on Wednesday having had the words of a new song instead’.

May 9 ‘School has been closed for the last fortnight owing to Hooping Cough’.

May 16 ‘Attendance not good. Chiefly owing to a number of Scholars kept at home for ?? Others not quite recovered from Hooping Cough’.

August 14 ‘School closed on Friday, being a Holy day of obligation’.

(page 29)

December 9 ‘School opened on Monday 1st Dec. by the new Teacher Isobella Middleton. Only three pupils present and kept but a short time – nine pupils at the end of the week. All generally late in the morning. This afternoon the Priest visited the school and examined two classes’.

December 26 ‘Attendance irregular. School not opened on the 25th’.

1880 (page 31)

- February 17 'Closed school on Friday – teacher obliged go home to see about getting coal. Only got home on Saturday in time to open the school for one attendance’.
- April 9 'Attendance last week very small owing to children having to stay at home to work’.
- November 1 'School opened on Monday 25th October after six weeks vacation. School closed today as it is a Holy Day’.
- November 26 'Copy of HMI report by Miss J. Middleton’.
- December 11 'School closed on Monday afternoon as the teacher had to go on errand – opened today, Saturday, to make up for lost time’.

1881 (page 48)

- January 12 'This week the storm has come on again, making it impossible for children to cross the hill’.
- March 14 'Family affliction has prevented some of the pupils from attending this week’.
- May 20 'The number on the Register for the two weeks of this quarter is only five boys & three girls. School closed on Wednesday afternoon, it being the half-yearly market day’.
- (page 59)
- August 19 'School Inspector. “Present 8 Boys 11 Girls”.
Isabella Middleton
J Macleod HMI’
- September 3 'Attendance still irregular owing to outdoor work occupying the children’s time’.
- November 18 'On Wednesday afternoon lessons were stopped about fifteen minutes before the expiry of the two hours as a thunderstorm was raging, which so alarmed the pupils that they were unable to work’.
- December 8 'Wednesday being a fast-day the school was closed’.
- December 12 'Today the children did not assemble till about twelve o’clock. No play was given. The school closed about three, having been three hours open. Owing to the shortness of the day, the pupils could not be kept longer’.
- (page 63)
- December 24 'The School was dismissed about fifteen minutes before the expiry of the two hours owing to the increasing darkness and the length of road the greater part of pupils have to travel’.
- December 30 'On Thursday morning only two girls were in time to be marked present though eight others came in afterwards. It is difficult to remedy this, as some of the people have no clocks’.

1882 (page 64)

- January 21 'The Clerk of the School Board visited the school on Tuesday to collect fees. This event interrupted the course of the forenoon meeting’.
- April 28 'Attendance still very small, as spring work is not finished’.
- June 9 'Standard I ’s reading is backward. No help can be had at home in preparing the reading lessons’.
- July 14 'School Inspected. Present 8 boys, 12 Girls. Isabella Middleton. J Macleod’.
- October 6 'Monday. School opened after Harvest’s Vacation under new Teacher. Present one boy and seven girls.....A slight alteration has been made on the time-table, the School being opened at 10 o’clock instead of 10.45 as formerly, with an interval of 15 minutes at 11.45.’
- November 3 'All Saints day kept as a holiday. School closed accordingly.....Boy’s attendance decreased, one boy having gone to the herring fishing.’
- December 1 'Thursday St Andrew’s Day. School opened today for an experiment. Two boys and eight girls attended.’
- December 29 'Monday Christmas Day. School closed today, Friday. Yesterday Capt. Swinburn and M.B. and Miss McLean Genuig visited the school but it happened to be the dinner hour and they did not want to see the children assemble for afternoon school’.

1883 (page 82)

January	Summary of the Inspector's report on the school 30/6/82 "The School room should be white-washed without delay".
February 9	'Received the fee accounts from the clerk today'.
February 23	'Weather stormy and rough this morning. Only seven boys and two girls attended.'
March 9	'No attendance marked on Thursday and Friday 1 st and 2 nd March respectively as the children present these days were employed in taking up the school coals from the shore to the School-house'.
March 30	'Attendance steadily declining, spring work detaining the children at home – a circumstance much to be regretted'.
April 20	'Thursday 19 th received a letter from the Clerk today intimating prosecution of defaulting parents'.
April 27	'Went round the island on Saturday to take the census of the children and find the people busy planting potatoes, requiring the children either to help in field work, or else to attend to their younger brothers and sisters.'
May 4	'Yesterday being Fast day, only two boys were in attendance'.
May 25	'Wednesday 23 rd Fair at Salen. No children assembled today. Thursday 24 a Fast day in the Catholic Church'.
June 8	Several of the children detained at home to work at peat cutting'.
June 15	'A few children still detained for peat cutting. Visit of defaulting officer much required'.
June 29	'Friday, a holiday in the Catholic Church. Children didn't attend on that day'.
August 21	School inspected.
September 3	'School closed today for the annual Holidays, to meet again on Wednesday 17 th October'.
October 26	'School opened after Holidays on Wednesday last week, Pupils however did not attend till Monday 22 nd . Some still detained to work at the potatoes. Present teacher sent in his resignation.
December 21	'Present Teacher's engagement terminates to-day'.

1884 (page 97)

January 25	'School opened on Monday by New Teacher. Six children entered for this week probably owing to very stormy weather. Two boys came in late'.
February 14	"Punctuality still deficient. Only two boys and four girls were present to be marked, though eight others came in afterwards. It is difficult to remedy this as some of the people have no clocks".
February 29	"Ink pens and copies arrived, consequently writing class commenced again. Progress fair. School opened and closed with prayer at the usual hour".
March 28	"Attendance steadily declining, Spring work detaining the children at home, a circumstance much to be regretted. Progress fair for those at school".
April 4	"Since April school closed at 4 o'clock, instead of 3".
April 18	"Received a letter from the "Clerk", intimating to tell the children to attend School, if not, to send a list of defaulters with the parents' address. In future the Board wishes a monthly list of all defaulters not attending school".
May 2	"Attendance very meagre indeed, the most of the children being detained at home to plant potatoes".
September 15	"School opened today by new Teacher John McGregor. Seven in attendance".
September 19	"No writing could be done as there is no ink and none to be got in this neighbourhood".
September 26	"Arithmetic substituted for writing as there has been no ink".
October 17	"No ink got yet".
December 22	11 present.

1885 (page 110)

January 6	"Holy Day in Catholic Church. No children attended".
February 10	"Mr Gillies, Clerk and Treasurer of the School Board visited the School to-day. Took a note of some defaulters".

- March 11 "No Sewing to-day. Mistress indisposed. Arithmetic instead".
 April 9 "I visited this school today – and was much pleased with the manner in which it is conducted. Mr McGregor takes a great interest in his pupils. Chas Macdonald".
 June 4 "No classes. Holiday in Catholic Church".
 August 28 "Attendance thin and irregular this week owing to children being required at home for the hay".
 December 3 "No classes. Teacher from home. County Election".
 December 29 "Owing to Snow Storm none attended yesterday and today".

1886 (page 127)

- March 9 "Holiday in honour of marriage of Proprietor's (M.J.B.) Eldest son".
 March 26 "Attendance irregular. Children kept at home gathering whilks".
 April 9 "Attendance thin and irregular owing to Spring work".
 June 18 "Have been among the parents again this week. Faithful promises have been given that the children would be more regular in future".
 September 10 "No Sewing yesterday. Mistress from home".
 November 3 "Present one boy, two girls. Attendance thin this week owing to potato lifting. Very little has been done".

1887 (page 141)

- February 15 "Had a visit to-day from Mr Gillies, Clerk of School Board".
 March 9 "No classes to-day. Teacher attending at Congregation meeting of Parish Church".
 May 13 "An improvement of attendance this week owing presumably to summonses having been issued to defaulting parents".
 June 21 "Holiday – Queen's Jubilee".
 July 7 "No classes. Fastday in Parish Church".
 September 2 "School inspected today by Mr Sime (?) HMI Captain Swinburne. Member of School Board also present. Present 12 boys and 9 girls".

1888 (page 152)

- February 14-17 "A heavy snowstorm these two days. Only my own children in attendance. School not opened".
 March 2 "Thin attendance. Children kept at home gathering wilks".
 March 9 "Good attendance. No wilks".
 April 27 "There was a case of truancy on Monday – afraid of a thrashing for throwing stones at a competition".
 May 29 "Sheep realisation (?) and delivery to new Tenant on farm on which School is situated".
 August 17 "Thin attendance owing to local sheep gathering".
 August 23 "Holiday owing to District Industrial Exhibition at which some of the pupils were competing".
 November 12 8 boys, 3 girls
 December 15 "Four boys attended owing to local sheep gathering".

1889 (page 164)

- March 15 "To-day only five minutes were given at the dinner house and classes were dismissed at 3 as the teacher had to go from home".
 May 22 "Local market. Meagre attendance".
 June 7 "The bigger boys have been engaged at peat making".
 June 18 "Attendance low due to sheep clipping".
 June 28 "Attendance low due to potato cleaning".
 August 19 "Very few present today owing to gathering of the Crofters' sheep".
 September 4 "Local Industrial Exhibition".

1890 (page 173)

- January 31 "Attendance not so good this week owing to a marriage, with preparations for and rejoicings at the event".

- February 4 “No classes – Teacher polling for Community Councillor”.
- March 14 “A few of the Children have been laid up with Influenza during the last two days”.
- March 21 “Attendance the lowest this year owing to outbreak of The Influenza. The school is to be closed from to-day for a short time in compliance with letter from School Board”.
- April 7 “School re-opened but attendance still low”.
- April 14 “No Classes. Teacher attending Sheriff Court Fort William as a witness in a prosecution of defaulting parent”.
- May 2 “A case of measles was noticed”.
- May 16 “Measles still confined to one family”.
- June 3 “The boys that have been laid up with Measles have returned”.
- August 8 “More suffering from Influenza”.
- December 11 “Fast day in parish. No classes”.

1891 (page 181)

- March 13 “The last sufferer from Influenza has returned this week”.
- May 6 “The following has been received from the Clerk of School Board regarding Mary A. McIntyre whose guardian was before them at their meeting on 28th ult. as a defaulter. According to Entry in Admission Register this girl is inst. 13 :- ‘The Board are satisfied from the information they have received that the girl M.A. McIntyre is over School age and that she may therefore be struck off the Register’. This has been done”.
- May 20 “Local Market Annual Holiday”.

1892 (page 191)

- July 13 “Holiday – Teacher polling at County Parliament Election”.
- November 4 “A few are attending very irregularly yet owing to potato lifting”.
- December 23 “Owing to gatherings of sheep by Crofters, the attendance has been thinner and more irregular this week”.

1893 (page 200)

- January 9 “Teacher attending a neighbour’s funeral. School in charge of Miss M’Dougall”.
- March 31 “On Monday had a visit from the Rev. McIntosh of Mingarry”.
- May 2 “School in charge of Miss McDougall. Teacher at a neighbour’s funeral”.
- July 7 “Holiday – Children at Kinloch Moidart at a fete given by Mrs Stewart in honour of the Marriage of the Duke of York and Princess **Maj (?)** of Leck”.
- August 11 “There has been some extra drill this week in view of Annual examination. There were no classes yesterday – being Parish Fast Day”.
- September 16 “HMI Report. ‘Attention was called last year to articles/33 & B4 of the Code, but the old regulations as to relief of fees is the one still exhibited. Regulations in accordance with the terms of the present Code should be submitted in duplicate without delay, for all the Schools under the Board, where this has not been already done.
A Merit Certificate is enclosed herewith for Christina M’Dougall, John McGregor, Cert. Teacher 1st Class, Mrs McGregor, Sewing Mistress’ ”.

1894 (page 210)

- March 1 8 boys, 5 girls.
- March 23 “The boys have begun to learn knitting while the girls are at their work. Arithmetic for boys has therefore been discontinued at this time”.
- May 13 “Local Market Holiday”.
- June 28 “Only a few minute intervals were given and it was dismissed at 1hr 45min p.m. to enable teacher to vote at School Board Election”.

1895 (page 219)

- February 1 “Snow storm. None attended”.
- March 8 “Since the 8th February the school has been closed owing to the teacher being laid up with Pneumonia”.
- March 15 “The teacher being still weak, the work of the School has not been well done”.

- April 19 “Part of one family is being kept at home to help with potato planting. Parent has been warned by Compulsing Officer. This having no effect, he has been reported to the School Board”.
- May 20 “No classes today. The teacher was attending the funeral of Mr Forest’s (Acharacle School) son.
- May 22 “Very thin attendance owing to local market”.
- June 10 “No classes. Teacher attending School Board meeting with two defaulting parents, who were cautioned to keep their children regular at school”.
- June 13 “No classes – Teacher at Arisaig polling for an MP for the Country”.
- July 25 “School was today in charge of Miss Macdougall, the Teacher being at Arisaig voting at the Parliamentary County Election”.
- August 23 “No Classes to-day, the children being at Kinlochmoidart for their treat from Mrs Stewart”.

1896 (page 228)

- May 12 “A girl has returned today who has, with the exception of a few days, been absent in bad health for more than two years. Her sister has joined for the first time”.
- May 20 “Local Market Annual Holiday”.
- December 18 “The attendance has been less and more irregular for the last two weeks owing to some of the children being unwell and also owing to the slippery state of the ground”.

1897 (page 241)

- January 8 “The school was in charge to-day of Miss Macdougall a Training College Student”.
- January 22 “Holiday. Children from home at a Magic Lantern entertainment”.
- September 27 “The school reopened today. Before the children were able to return to school, the Medical Officer certified on 2nd July that some were affected with Hooping Cough and advised the school being kept closed”.
- October 29 “School work has been much interfered with owing to irregular attendance caused by potato lifting”.
- December 24 “Sheep-dipping and the approach of Christmas has caused a slight decrease in attendance this week”.

1898 (page 250)

- March 28 “No classes. Teacher attending a School Board Meeting at Salen”.
- March 28 “A new one entered to-day – result of the parent being summoned before the School Board yesterday”.
- May 18 “Local Market – Holiday”.
- May 20 “Peat making has affected attendance”.
- November 24 “The school has been closed since the 7th owing to serious illness of teacher”.
- December 16 “Teacher continues to be far from well”.

1899 (page 257)

- January 19 “HIS Report till 31 July 1898. ‘This small school is taught with intelligence and considerable success. Though the children never speak English outside of the school, they read English fluently and seem to understand its meaning Gaelic songs are rendered with spirit and expression and sewing is particularly novel ???’ Staff John McGregor, Mrs McGregor, Sewing Mistress”.
- March 21 “Snow-storm. No attendance”.
- June 9 “A boy who has been absent for two and a half years from the effects of rheumatic fever has returned”.

1900 (page 266)

- February 8 – 19 “School closed on account of heavy snow storm”.
- March 19 “School has been closed by Medical Certificate until further notice”.
- April 9 “School reopened. Some too weak to cross the hill”.
- April 13 “Some too weak to cross the hill”.

1901 (page 274)

January 31 "School closed from snow storm".

1902 (page 281)

January 27 – February 17 "School closed from heavy snow storm".

April 7 "No classes. Teacher attending a neighbour's funeral".

April 10 "Attendance this week has been thin and irregular owing to some of the children being engaged in potato planting".

May 8 "Parish Church Fast Day. School closed."

June 6 "Sickness and peat spreading has lowered the attendance".

June 20 "Peat spreading still keeps some children engaged and so affects the attendance".

August 6 "4 boys, 8 girls. Roll and Present".

October 13 "All the classes have now been advanced and are working heartily".

October 24 "Stormy weather, Potato lifting and the local market have all contributed to a thin attendance this week".

November 21 "All the children are unable to attend owing to Influenza".

December 25 "Christmas Day – Holiday."

December 26 "Attendance thin".

1903 (page 288)

March 23 "School closed to-day, Teacher being at a neighbour's funeral".

April 17 "Potato planting has affected the attendance very adversely".

July 30 "The School was inspected to-day by Mr. J.L. Robertson HMIS".

September "Staff. John McGregor C.T."
Mrs McGregor S.N. (?)"

October 30 "Stormy weather and potato-lifting have very adversely affected the attendance during the past two weeks".

November 7 "Weather favourable and potatoes mostly secured and attendance has improved".

November 26 "No classes. Teacher attending a neighbour's funeral".

1904 (page 298)

February 4 "No children appeared to-day and only one yesterday owing to a wedding in the island, all the children except one being nearly related to the bride and bridegroom".

April 26 "Only one present. Ascertained that Influenza is prevalent. Reported the matter to Medical Officer, who has advised closing the school until further notice".

May 16 "School reopened".

June 22 "Rev. M. Mackintosh visited School and signed register".

July Last entry, page 302.

No records seem to be available between 1904 and 1917.

Eilean Shona School

GB3218/C1/L/5/3/38b

First page, 1 February 6 1917
Last page, 181 October 21 1939

Front Page :-

Commenced 6.2.17

Dimensions of school	Length	Breadth	Height
(1) Schoolroom	19ft	16ft	10ft

1917 (page 1)

February 6 ‘Commenced duties here today. Moriah Shaw’.
February 8 ‘The Rev. Provost MacKintosh visited this school today. Average attendance for past week 9.4. Special attention given this week to handwriting’.
March 13 Mr Ronald Macdonald , Member of School Board visited this school to-day’.
April 27 ‘Average attendance for week 6. A number of the children have been kept at home this week to help with the potato planting’.
May 1 ‘School closed to-day. Market Day’.
June 22 Roll 10.
June 29 Roll 12.
July 31 ‘School closed for Summer Holidays’.
September 17 ‘School reopened after Summer Holidays’.
October 2 ‘Salen Sale To-day. No children present’.
October 15 ‘Children did not attend today. The Parents have kept them to help with the harvest’.
October 19 Report for July 1916. Fair progress is made in Reading, Recitation, Spelling and History. On the other hand Arithmetic is carried on with a total absence of method; no systematic instruction is given in Penmanship or Written Composition; neither Sewing nor Drawing appears to have been taught throughout the session and singing has been practically neglected.
November 1 ‘Church Holiday’.

1918 (page 10)

January 18 ‘There has been a snow storm for the last fortnight making it impossible for the children to attend school’.
April 26 ‘Three of the pupils have been kept at home this week to help with potato planting’.
October 22 ‘School visited today by Mr. R. McDonald, member of school board’.

1919 (page 16)

January 3 Roll 12.
April 11 ‘No school – voting day’.
April 29 ‘School closed to-day. Market Day. Roll 12’.
May 16 ‘I cease duties here to-day. Mariah Shaw’.
May 19 ‘Entered on temporary charge to-day. Victoria McKenzie’.
June 6 ‘Tho’ twelve names on register, one girl 13 yrs. has not been in school since 24th March and her brother 11 yrs. has not been to school same date, except twice’.
June 20 ‘There are sixteen children in the district of school age, but only twelve on roll’.
June 27 ‘Two children absent through chickenpox’.
October 10 ‘Two children admitted – one 9 yrs. old and one 8 yrs.old. Neither has been at school before and neither of them can speak a word of English. A boy Alexander McDougall 11 yrs. old has come back to school after an absence of six months. There was no reason why this boy should be absent. His sister Flora has been at home during that period as the mother was ill’.

- October 24 "Note sent for second time that coal was finished. Children cut up some wood or rather sticks to burn in school".
- December 12 "All available paper even my very own has been used up by the children to do their work on".
- December 22 "Teacher has been notified that she has been transferred to Inverie and that she is to take up duty there after the holidays. J(?) McKenzie".

1920 (page 24)

- January 13 "I J.H. MacLean sertf. Teacher took up duties. Superannuation no. 18873. Trained Jordanhill R.C. Training Sc." Roll 14, 8 present.
- January 16 "No books or writing material to hand". Delivered January 22.
- February 9 "This morning's storm of rain and wind is terrific and it is quite marvellous to have an attendance of eleven out of thirteen".
- February 11 "Impossible for children to turn out to-day, owing to a dreadful thunderstorm".
- March 26 "Two boys over 14 years of age left during the week to help with Croft work".
- May 11 "Salen Sale. Local Holiday. The greater number of scholars go to the sale with their cattle".
- June 4 "Every child of school age on the island is now attending school".
- July 28 "Treat was given to-day by Miss Morrell, Dundee and children were afterwards photographed. This kindness was greatly appreciated – quite a Red Letter Day in their lives".
- October 1 "A County Bursary was won by John K. Kennedy, a Supplementary Class pupil. He is now attending Fort William High School".
- November 18 "Majority of children are in beds with Influenza cold".
- December 21 "Owing to the short and dark afternoons no dinner interval is given and the children are dismissed at 2.45 p.m. – this enables them to get home before dark over practically impassable roads".

1921 (page 36)

- January 11 Roll 13.
- April 15 "In absence of teacher through illness at home, school was kept open and work carried on from 4-15th April by Miss K.M. Gillies Eilean Shona".
- April 29 "One ton of coal was brought from Samalaman this afternoon".
- July 29 "Teacher has been notified that she has been transferred to another school under Inverness Education Authority, and terminates engagement here to-day".
- September 19 "Took up duties here to-day. Rachel (?) McKinnon C.J.".
- December 23 "By the kindness of Lady Howard de Walden the children have all been provided with strong boots – and this is a great aid to good attendance".

1922 (page 46)

- January 9 "An epidemic of Influenza has broken out and all the school children are affected".
- January 23 School reopened. Seven came to school to-day".
- February 28 "Holiday by order of S.M.C. for Princess Mary's Wedding".
- May 19 Roll 14.
- June 9 "There is a shortage of slates, pencils and chalk which is causing much inconvenience".
- September 19 "David Forsyth taken off the Roll – as he is now attending Abbey School Fort Augustus".
- November 17 "Wednesday 15th being General Election day, the school was closed owing to teacher going to Kinlochmoidart to record her vote".

1923 (page 52)

- April 26 "A holiday was given by order of the Education Authority in honour of the Duke of York's wedding".
- April 27 "Attendance poor owing to the older children being kept at home for spring work".

- July 27 "Attendance for the past week has been very poor owing to influenza among the children. Only five present".
- October 19 "School closed to-day for one week's vacation by order of the School Management Committee to let children help with potato lifting".
- October 31 "Resigned duties to-day. R. McKinnon".
- November 1 "Took up duties to-day. S. Mackin, C.J."
- November 15 "The storm is much worse. Four children arrived before 11 a.m. and two boys after, but all were so exhausted that it was some time before they were able to work properly".

1924 (page 64)

- February 17 "All the boys marked late this afternoon as they stayed to watch a fishing boat in the loch even after a bell had been rung for them. It seems impossible to make them remember the importance of punctuality".
- March 25 "Yesterday I was still too indisposed to get into school and my little daughter helped the children through the day's lessons which had been mapped out for them".
- December 1 "Hugh McPhee has been injured, a heavy cart having gone over his foot, so that he is unable to attend school and may be absent for some considerable time".

1925 (page 74)

- February 2 "Hugh McPhee returned to-day".
- November 1 "On October 16th Mrs. Mackin, Head Teacher, was suddenly taken seriously ill in consequence of which school has been closed until today when it was reopened by E.D. Mackin C.T. Relief Staff".
- December 4 "School visited by Rev. Fr. McLellan, Member of the Local Committee".

1926 (page 82)

- April 19 "Attendance very poor owing to an epidemic of Whooping-Cough on the island".
- July 2 Roll 12.
- July 30 "Alex Kennedy has been awarded an Intermediate Bursary to attend Fort William School".

1927 (page 93)

- April 4 Roll 16.
- May 9 "Received a small First Aid box".

1928 (page 98)

- May 25 "Peatcutting still causing irregularity of attendance".

1929 (page 103)

- February 8 "Influenza has broken out. A very poor attendance".
- April 12 "My daughter Margaret I. MacKin, a student at Dowan Hill has been teaching here during the past week".
- September 11 "A holiday was necessary today to allow children to be present at the annual treat given by Lady Howard de Walden".
- November 11 "One of the younger girls had fallen into a burn much swollen by the heavy rains. Her arm and hand were badly cut so we bound them up and took her home".

1930 (page 108)

- May 22 "Received an intimation from Mr Tolmie that Mr James MacKenzie, Inspector of Poor, Fort William, has succeeded Mr Alex Gibson".
- July 4 Roll 13.
- July 9 "Was so ill that my daughter took my place in school".
- July 18 "Closed school for Summer Holidays and before that expires my resignation on account of failing health will expire".
- August 16 "School reopened after the summer vacation. Took charge as temporary head teacher. James Campbell".

1931 (page 113)

- January 7 "Took charge as Headmistress of school today. Catherine Campbell".
January 17 "School Intervals. As the morning session in this school consists of two hours 11 am – 1 pm only one interval 11.55 – 12.50 can reasonably be allowed".
March 2 "Received consignment of cleaning material from Marshall Pearson, Fort William".
May 29 "The school room has been distempered by Sydes Fort William this week. The children were removed to the schoolhouse while the painter was at work.
HMI Report 1930-31. The teacher's great difficulty is in getting the pupils to speak English fluently, but she is doing her best to systematise the work with that end in view".
October 9 Roll 13.

1932 (page 124)

- August 17 "New pupil Mary Macdonald aged 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ enrolled in school today. Roll 14".
June 8 "Mr Morrison, Director of Education, visited school today with school dentist. Children allowed to go home at 1.30".
June 9 "Only nine children present today. Others remained at home after having teeth extracted".
September 21 "Half holiday given today to celebrate the Centenary of Sir Walter Scott".
November 18 "This week notice has been received from the Clerk D.J. Tolmie that 1/8^d per pupil has to be recovered from the parents of children attending the school for Books and stationary invoiced since 31st March".
December 23 "I finished duties as teacher here today. C Campbell".

1933 (page 133)

- January 13 "Iain Fraser in charge".
November 10 "Repairs to School House lavatories executed by plumber".

1934 (page 139)

- January 5 "Sewing materials received today".
January 27 "School held today (Saturday) to make up for extra closures".
April 20 "Water supply and WCS attended to by plumber this week".
August 5 Roll 9.
September 21 "Having been transferred to Arisaig R.C. School I cease duties here today. I.A.M. Fraser".
September 24 "I took charge as Headmistress of school today. Mary A. Kennedy".
October 22 "One girl, Charlotte Kennedy from Kinlochailort School admitted today".
November 29 "Holiday granted by County Council in honour of HRH The Duke of Kent's marriage with Princess Marine of Greece".
December 12 "Religious period on timetable was given up to attending Mass on Island this morning. School did not open until 10.30".

1935 (page 146)

- January 7 Roll 10.
January 16 "Circular referring to G.C. No.1/1935 – books and stationery received. Senior and Advanced pupils to pay 2/4^d, - Infants 1/-^d, Juniors 1/8^d.
February 2 "Teacher unable to open School owing to illness – all children laid up with influenza."
February 11 "School re-opened".
February 18 "One girl, Margaret MacPhee born 5/12/20 has left".
February 21 "Attendance still very poor owing to influenza".
March 1 "John MacLellan and Angus Kennedy, absent for a week with severe attack of influenza, have returned to school".
May 3 Jubilee Medals received for children to-day".
May 6 "A holiday given in honour of the King's Silver Jubilee".
August 2 Roll 9.

Report 1934-35

- September 20 "The senior and advanced division pupils read Gaelic fluently".
November 6 "Children allowed away early to attend a party given by Lady Howard de Walden".
November 6 "Holiday granted in honour of the Duke of Glouster's wedding".

1936 (page 156).

- January 27 "Admitted Andrew Bowman, Thomas Bowman , Patricia and Islay Bowman".
January 31 "Friday afternoons are now devoted to Cookery , which we began on 24th January 1936".
April 24 Roll 10.
June 9 "A plumber from Fort William fitted up new slates and more pipes on the school today".
September 9 "Teacher absent from school on afternoon owing to a business meeting. School was left open in charge of a past pupil".
October 2 "Donald Macdonald has been kept at home two days this week for potato lifting".
October 27 "Catherine M. Cameron takes up duties as headmistress today".
December 2 "Children from the West End are unable to attend today because of the storm".

1937 (page 165)

- January 5 Roll 8.
January 11 "Box of books packed on Saturday and sent to Dorlin. It will leave Acharacle pier on Friday 15th inst."
March 1 "The MacDonald family have left Eilean Shona leaving 6 on roll".
May 10 "Received the message for the Coronation to the school children from Mr. Walter Elliot, Secretary of State for Scotland. This was read to the children before they were dismissed at 4 o'clock".
May 11 "Coronation Medals and 6^d were presented to the children by Mr Forsyth on behalf of the Education Authority. School closed until Monday".
September 24 "Received 'Paths to Parnassus' Book III".
November 19 "Certified account from the Loch Shiel Steamboat Service re books".
November 26 "Permission has been granted to dismiss school at 3.30 p.m. during winter if mid-day interval is shortened by half and hour".

1938 (page 175)

- January 6 Roll 6
January 24 "Wrote to Mr Reid, Surveyor, regarding the schoolroom fireplace – part of the bottom has fallen through".
April 21 "One new pupil staying with teacher".
June 20 "Roll 5 as Mary Anderson has been called away unexpectedly".
July 1 "John MacLellan absent attending the Provincial Mod".
September 1 "Only one pupil on roll as the Bowman family have left the district".
October 21 "I cease duties here today. Catherine M. Cameron".

The last entry is on page 181 (1938) and pages 182 to 301 have been pulled out. There is no more information known about the school until January 1955.

Eilean Shona School

GB3218/C1/L/5/3/38c

First page, 1 January 5 1955
Last page, 111 December 9 1980

1955 (page 1)

January 5 “Isabel MacRanald took up duties in this school. Roll is five”.
February 28 “The Intelligence Test was held on Tuesday, February 23rd. One child Margaret Ann Cameron sat this exam. The other children were off school during time of test”.
March 4 “20 absences this week. 3 pupils suffering from flu”.
June 18 “Received letter from Mr Lawson that Eilean Shona School can be closed on 28th June, having by that time made 400 openings”.

1956 (page 4)

???? “The Intelligence Test and Attainment Examination were held in Eilean Shona Public School. One child, Margaret Ann Cameron, sat both exams. Owing to the fact that there is only one room in school, rest of the children were absent from school”.
April 12 Roll four.
June 29 “School closed today for summer holidays”.
August 21 “Visited school with J. Morrison who takes up duty as sole teacher with effect from 22 August 1956.
August 22 “Roll 5. New pupil is Joseph Charles MacPhee, The Cottage, Eilean Shona.
August 28 “Hugh Cameron absent suffering from a cold”.
September 24 “Paid visit to school ?? Martin (nurse)”.
September 29 “Miss Grey visited this school today and tested the 4 elder children in arithmetic and Reading. They all did very well”.
November 2 “J.C. MacPhee absent, asthma”.

1957 (page 7)

January 7 “School reopened today after Xmas Holidays”.
May 3 “30 absences to record this week. All the children are suffering from influenza”.
June 14 Children got home early in the afternoon because they got teeth extracted by the School Dentist”.
November 1 “12 absences to report this week. Children are suffering from Influenza”.

1958 (page 10)

April 25 “Alistair MacPhee absent all week suffering from Influenza”.
May 25 “Two MacPhee children were given permission to enrol in Mingarry School from 26th”.
May 26 Roll 3.
May 30 “Received permission from the “Director of Education” to close School on Tuesday June 24th to attend Mod at Strontian”.
August 26 “School opened today after Summer Holidays. Only 2 pupils on School Roll. Prim. 5, 1 Boy. Prim. 4, 1 Boy”.

1959 (page 14)

May 7 “No School today. Church fast day”.
May 25 “Mr Lawson visited this school today”.

1960 (page 17)

May 5 “No School today. Church fast day”.
May 6 “No School today. Royal Wedding (Princess Margaret ?)

1961 (page 19)

- March 23 "Innes (?) A. Cameron left this school and went to Invergarry school. Only one pupil on roll now".
- May 1 "New family to Cottage Eilean Shona. One pupil of school age Robert McGookey D.O.B. 8/12/54. Last school Alexandra, Dumbartonshire.
- November 6 "School closed

1962 (page 21)

"Visited J. Morrison".

1963 (page 22)

- September 19 "Eilean Shona School opened today with five pupils".
- November 11 "Reporter and Photographer from Daily Express took pictures of school and pupils".

1964 (page 22)

1965 (page 23)

- January 5 "Today I, Mary MacMaster took up duties in this school. Roll 4 – Catriona MacKay, Daniel MacKay, Margaret Brenner, Elizabeth Ann MacKay".
- January 15 "Wrote to BBC Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow for timetable for School's Programmes".
- January 25 "Wrote to Dr. MacLean ordering one ton of coal".
- February 19 "Roll 6, two new, Catherine Anne Smith Bremner and John MacKay both aged 4 years".
- February 26 "Six tins of National Dried Milk arrived with six beakers".
- March 5 "On Wednesday there was a storm so there was no school opening on that day as I could not cross in boat".
- March 12 "Mrs Bane (?) started supplying fresh milk to school".
- March 19 "On Tuesday of this week a storm rose in the afternoon so I could not get home and had to stay on Island".
- April 25 "School reopened after Easter holidays. Margaret and Catherine Brenner have measles".
- April 30 "The two older MacKay children were up seeing Princess Margaret opening the new hospital in Fort William. Mr Roberts was in school on Thursday giving Mod music to children....The paraffin ordered from Marshall & Pearson Fort William had not yet arrived".
- June 4 "Findlay Ferguson from Invermoidart was enrolled. Father Ireland visited".
- August 27 "Findlay Ferguson has not returned to school. I submitted my resignation on August 24th".
- September 3 "Findlay Ferguson returned. His father ferrys him from Invermoidart to Dorlin each morning. From there he travels to school on the same ferry boat as I do".

1966 (page 30).

- February 1 "Teacher: BMH Walton. Arrived Eilean Shona to take over from Mrs MacMaster".
- February 2 "Mrs MacMaster came over this morning to introduce me to the pupils, seven in number".
- March 4 "Five gallons paraffin ordered from Fort William. Mrs Vane supplied two gallons. Wireless arrived, but poor reception".
- May 24 "5 Cwt coal delivered from Salen. Supplies have been finished for about a week. Children combing beach for odd pieces washed up by sea. Wood-gathering every day".
- May 26 "Lady Temple's daughter, Louise, aged 6 ½ attended school for a week while they were staying with Mrs Vane. A good little worker, a good mixer, a good sense of humour".
- May 27 "Visitors – Miss McDonald and Mrs Muir. Children sing Gaelic songs and recite. Miss McDonald helps older children with counting".
- June 15 "World Children's Day. Children collected £7-10-0 and a cheque for this amount was sent to Save the Children Fund".
- June 28 "Ardnamurchan Mod at Strontian".

- August 23 Roll 6.
 October 25 "Murial McInnes here for two weeks while on holiday with the MacKays. She is five and attends school at Canich".
 November 11 "Miss R.H. Barr (Woman-Adviser, Cranhill School, Glasgow) inspects arithmetic".

1967 (page 35).

- June 1 "Margaret Catherine and Hugh Brenner left to attend school in Perthshire".
 June 15 "World's Children's Day. Children (four of them) collected £2-11-9^d."
 June 30 "School closed".

There are no further entries for 1967 or for 1968.

1969 (page 37)

- Today Eilean Shona School re-opened with one pupil and I, Agnes Bolton, took up duty. James McLellan was enrolled in Primary I".
 May 25 Mrs Lartie and Mrs Walton both of Glasgow (Mrs Walton is an ex-teacher of Shona School) visited us today. Nature Study today consisted of going to the lily pond where we watched tadpoles and returned with a jar-ful to the classroom. We will watch them growing."
 May 30 "James unable to walk was brought to school by landrover and was carried in to the class-room by his Father."
 September 12 "BBC Contingent called at school on Monday and interviewed us and took "Shots" in and around school. To be used with a feature which BBC Television are making on the difficulties of rural education in remote areas".
 December 2 "I, Charlotte R. Macintyre, took up duties in this school, the role being one - James Patrick MacLellan aged five years".

1970 (page 42)

- March 10 "James went to Fort William with his father (Mrs MacLellan had a baby daughter on 3rd March and is in Belford Hospital). I opened the school as usual, however, and set to cleaning and making out a new inventory".

1971 (page 55)

- April 13 "I, Johanna Montgomery, took up duties in this school, the role being one, James Patrick MacLellan aged 7 years.
 May 13 "John aged 4 years came to school".
 December 22 "Children's Christmas Party at Acharacle School at 2 p.m.".

1972 (page 63)

- January 11 "I, Ishbel Maclean, took up duties in the school, the role being one".
 April 12 "John, aged 4 ½, started school today, brother of James MacLellan".
 May 23 "Visit to Mingarry School this morning to practice for the Mòd".
 June 5 "Visit to Mingarry School this morning to practice for the Mòd".
 June 26 "Dr Godfrey visited and gave medical examination".
 June 27 "We spent the day at the Strontian Mod. Both children sang in the choir of Mingarry School".
 September 4 "I, Margaret O Beathe, took up duties in this school. There are two pupils".
 September 5 "Received one gallon paraffin from the estate".
 September 25 "Nuci (?) and Artlethe George were admitted".
 October 17 "1 gallon of paraffin from the estate. The week has been very cold with snow on the ground. Monday is a holiday for the Queen's Silver Wedding Aniversary (primary II)".

There is a gap between here and 22nd August 1973.

1973 (page 73)

- August 22 "Four pupils – John MacLellan (Primary I), Paul Campbell (Primary II), James MacLellan (Primary V), James Campbell (Primary VI)".
- November 14 "School closed today. Holiday for Princess Anne's wedding to Captain Marks Philips".

1974 (page 73)

- January 3 "Roll 2. James and Paul Campbell left".
- February 14 "School was closed today as I had to sit my driving test".
- November 25 "I , Mary Godsman, took up duties in this school. There are four pupils - James MacLellan (10), John MacLellan (7), Margaret MacLellan (4 ½), Sarah MacDonald (4 ½). Sarah absent a few weeks with her mother in Skye".

1975 (page 77)

- February 17 "Calor Gas heaters were installed in the school today".
- June 24 "The children were all attending the local Mod in Strontian".
- June 25 "Again there was no opening of the school today as we joined with Mingarry and Acharacle schools to go to Ardtoe for a picnic. This proved to be most enjoyable".

Page 81 after the last entry on 26th June 1975 says "Sessions 1975-76 and 1976-77 Margaret A. Bra ? Teacher". ? = Margaret O Batha of September 4 1972?

1977 (page 82)

- August 24 "Children started school today. There are three on the roll - John MacLellan (10), Seonaid Hamilton (8) and Margaret MacLellan (7).
- September 6 "Collected money for "Chip" club books and sent away order".
- September 8 "I let John go and help with sheep gathering this afternoon".
- September 19 "Father Fraser visited us this afternoon".
- September 20 "Margaret Beithe, the previous teacher, visited the school this afternoon". Margaret O Beithe of September 4 1972.
- October 10 "Sink was installed today, but water not connected".
- October 26 "John fused all the lights on the island because there was a loose connection in the school".
- October 31 "Hallowe'en entertainment for the mothers and an aunt this afternoon. The children all dressed up as witches because they were doing an excerpt from the play "MacBeth" by Shakespeare. Everyone had a good time".
- November 16 "This afternoon we went up the hill to do some field sketches of the hill of Kinlochmoidart".
- December 5 "John and Margaret were both absent from school today to attend the funeral of Alan MacDonald, the bus driver from Dorlin".

1978 (page 84)

- January 4 "James MacLellan came to school this afternoon because he didn't manage to get away to the High School this morning".
- January 17 "Spent the afternoon up in the hills walking through the snow".
- March 14 "A reporter and photographer from the Aberdeen Press and Journal visited the school today. The article about me, the school and the island will appear in the paper in three or four weeks time".
- June 23 "Mod at Strontian. The Mingarry-Eilean Shona Schools Choir received a medal for the highest marks in Gaelic. All three of the children enjoyed their day out but were very tired when we arrived back at Eilean Shona after midnight. It had been a very hard day ! Lots of hard work and preparation had gone into learning songs and poems for the Mod and I heaved a sigh of relief when it was all over ! !".
- June 28 "We went for a picnic to Samalaman Beach at Glenuig with Mingarry and Acharacle Schools. Unfortunately the weather wasn't particularly good, but we all managed to have a good time despite it".

- June 30 "School closed today for the start of the summer holidays. Margaret and John MacLellan are leaving the island and will be attending Mingarry R.C. next session. This is the end of a very successful and enjoyable year for all of us. I am sorry that it has had to come to an end.
- August 22 "During the summer holidays Seonaid Hamilton has also left the island and a new family has arrived. Tomorrow the school will open with two new pupils".
- August 23 "Roll 2. Elizabeth Johnson (6) and her sister Emily (nearly 5)".
- August 29 "Emily cried when she arrived at school and went home with her mother. She came back later in the afternoon but is a reluctant pupil".
- September 29 "This afternoon we are going to a "Theatre Workshop" at Acharacle School. I am leaving the island tomorrow to take up appointment at Mallaig School on Monday".
- October 9 "Today I, Caroline Moyes, took over duties as teacher on Eilean Shona".
- November 24 "School did not open until 10.30 as we were all at the hairdresser."
- November 28 "Gas heater still not working. Heat provided by paraffin heaters belonging to Mr Vane and Mr Johnson".
- December 21 "School closed half-day today as the children were attending the Christmas party at Acharacle."

1979 (page 94)

- June 26 "Today we are joining the children of Acharacle and Mingarry schools for a picnic at Glenuig".
- September 17 "School did not open this morning, as it was too stormy for me to cross".
- October 23 "This afternoon we went for a walk up to the sheepfank to watch the dipping and shearing".
- December 13 "Today we joined Acharacle and Mingarry schools on a visit to the pantomime in Inverness. The panto was Babes in the Wood, being performed at the Eden Court Theatre. All the children enjoyed it very much".

1980 (page 102)

- January 28 "From today Elizabeth and Emily will be going to my house on a Monday and Wednesday at 2pm to watch a schools television programme".
- January 30 "Took the girls to the Brownies in Acharacle School".
- May 28 "This morning we went across to Acharacle School. The Brownies have stopped for the summer, so we are going across in the morning instead. We went with Mrs Fortine's class to visit "Cnoc Breac" museum at Mingarry".
- December 9 "School closed today indefinitely. The Johnson family are moving to Tayvallich on Thursday and the school will now close until further notice. One opening this week and no absences".