

# Focus on Long Lawford Combined School



The old building of Lawford School.

R/10/106

## The past

By Dianne Wright, Russell Marks, Janice Miller, Ian Bunton.

Taken by children from recordings of interviews with villagers, school annals and tape recordings of documents in archives. Each child wrote own article and the whole lot was then combined and edited.

The school was opened by the Newbold-on-Avon School Board.

There were only two rooms and these were lit by one oil lamp in each. They were heated by small stoves. There was no running water so all the water for all purposes had to be drawn from a well in the playground.

The toilets were just buckets with a wooden frame over them and this is quite likely the reason for many outbreaks of dysentery which the master noted in his log book.

children had to pay a few pence per week to come to school.

### Monitors

At first, the master used monitors to help him to teach. These were the best scholars. He would tell them what he wanted the others to learn and they would then take groups and teach them.

Later on, he had pupil teachers. These were children who had really left school but who took up extra studies in the evenings and early mornings and helped with the teaching during the day.

When they were old enough they took a test called the Queen's Scholarship and if they did well in this they could go to a college to be trained to be a teacher.

There were no school dinners or school buses in those days. Some children had to walk several miles to school along bad roads in all sorts of weather and then had to stay at school all day feeling wet and hungry.

### Cookery

When the war ended in 1918 there were 127 children at the school and at this time girls had cookery lessons for the first time. They were held in the reading room which is now the Legion Club.

In 1920, the school had its first playing field. This was an ordinary meadow owned by a local resident, Mr C. H. Garratt.

The headmaster was very thrilled to report that he now had some dual desks. These were desks for two children with one lid and one seat and fastened together by a very heavy iron frame.

In 1934, Mr Kay reported that the school turned out to see an airship fly overhead. Also at this time he reports running water, electricity and radio in the school.

Each child now had an exercise book for each subject, a reading book and a good supply of text books but

there were very few library books.

After the war, in 1947, there were 174 children and the senior boys went to woodwork classes in Rugby, while the senior girls went to cookery at Benn School.

In September 1949, the school became a junior and infants' school only. Children over 11 years of age now had to go to secondary schools.

### Classrooms

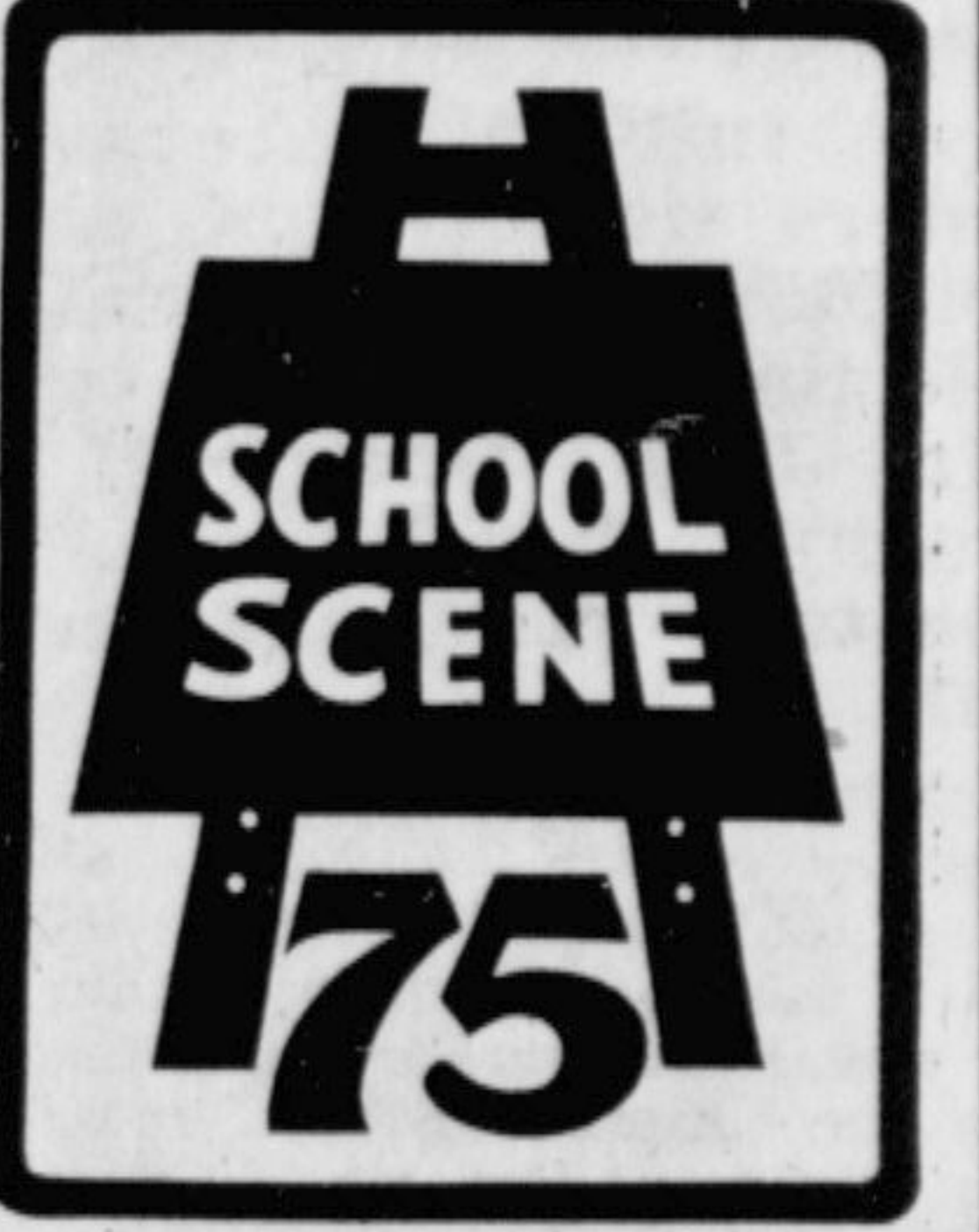
In 1957, the first two classrooms of the new school were built in a field in Townsend Lane.

In 1964 and 1967, there were more additions and the old school in School Street was closed.

In 1971, the first part of the new Middle School for Long Lawford and Church Lawford was built on the school field.

Some time it will be completed and the Lawfords will have two first schools and a

## What is a school?



middle school. Now we are a combined school in Long Lawford and a first school in Church Lawford.

Whatever happens, the third verse of our school hymn is very suitable in what it says about the former pupils and us.

"They reap not where they laboured  
We reap what they have sown  
Our harvest may be garnered  
By ages yet unknown  
The days of old have dowered us  
With gifts beyond all praise  
Our Father, make us faithful  
To serve the coming days."

## the present

By Patricia Williams, Karen Davies, Karen Clarke, and Paula Mallinson.

We have been looking around our school and find ourselves far more fortunate than our parents, when they were at school.

We have listed more than 50 pieces of equipment more than they had. Here are just a few of them.

Electric appliances such as televisions, record players, film projectors, tape recorders.

Science equipment such as bunsen burners, pulleys, discovery kits and circuit boards.

Woodwork benches and tools.

Sports equipment including spike running shoes, hurdles, hockey sticks, footballs, netballs, swimming pool.

### A SCHOOL DAY

At 9 o'clock the school bell goes I go into school hang my coat up in the cloakroom and go into class. I get a reading book out and start reading until we go into assembly. After assembly we go back to the class and work at maths.

In maths we do decimal fractions and long division. At 10.30 the bell goes for play,

during play we just walk about.

Then after that the bell goes to stop play our class goes over to music where we sing and also learn to play musical instruments such as the melodica and the glockenspiel. When we finish music we go back to class and have French. In French we are taught to talk, spell and write.

At five to 12 we go to dinner, we have nice dinners, we then have another play until 1.15. We go in and Mr Rundle our teacher marks the register. Then we have science, there are all sorts of experiments we can do. I have science until play. When we come in from play I then have environmental studies up to when I go home at 3.40. That is the end of a typical school day. — Karen Clarke.

### THE SWIMMING POOL

Our school swimming pool was started in 1974 and was first used in 1975. Some of the teachers helped dig up the ground where the swimming pool was going to be. When the hole was dug it was a couple of weeks before the swimming pool arrived.

A crane came to lower the pool into the ground. Mr Knight and Mr Rundle helped and when it was in the ground they put cement all around the pool. Later there was a fence built.

The pool is specially heated and it is very good for the

children to swim in. The very young children can now learn to swim in warm shallow water. This is very good for their confidence. — Anthony Parkes.

### NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

Long Lawford school has lately been collecting newspapers. We have saved up newspapers and sold them to firms to be used again because of the shortage.

Every two months a lorry comes and collects them and gives us money for it which means that we use this money for the swimming pool.

Recently we have got so much that we can't sell it. It would probably cost us more to remove it than what we could get for it at today's prices.

Sometimes we have people that tidy it up but it is not an easy job so we often find newspapers scattered by the wind over the car park. — Christopher Dodd.

### THE DOLPHIN TROPHY

We have won the Dolphin trophy four times. The first trophy we ever won was in 1968, second in 1972, third in 1973 and last of all so far 1974.

They were awarded to us by the bottlers of Coca Cola. We had them because everybody has been able to swim about 200 yards.

We have a small pool at school but unfortunately it is too small to do badges, so we have to go up to the Sports Centre to practice for our survival awards. — Amanda Lewis.

### FILM CLUB

Once a month on Wednesday we have a film club in school. Tickets can be bought at school at the tuck shop or you can pay at the door when you come in.

Tickets are 15p for the older children and adults and 10p for the young children. The most recent film we had was a colour film by Walt Disney about a cat.

Halfway through there was an interval when we could buy things from a sweet stall.

I think the film club is a good idea which gives the children something to do outside of their own house. I would like more films like Black Beauty which I enjoyed very much. — Russell Marks.

### THE CIVIC SOCIETY TROPHY

We have won the Civic Society trophy three times. The most recent one we won was for a school museum. We wrote all sorts of things about it.

We brought all sorts of things from other countries and things from the past and from grandads and grandmas. The mayor came to present it to the whole school.

The mayor presented the trophy to the head boy and head girl. — Donna Thomas.

### Benches

The children sat on long benches in rows called standards. There were five standards and to move from one to another the children had to pass an examination set by an inspector.

If they did not pass they had to stay where they were. Some children never got into Standard Three while some shot up the school very quickly and had to spend a long time in Standard Five.

They did not have much equipment. They had no games equipment of any sort and during the whole of the first term they received only 58 books, 1 box of slate pencils, 1 box of pens, 1 map, 120 sheets of paper, 1 bead frame and a school fees book.

We were interested in that last item and when we made some inquiries we found that

### Head teacher

In 1904, Mr Herbert Kay came to the school as head teacher and was to stay for 35 years. He often came back to visit the school after Mr Griffiths came in 1963 so it shows that really the strange old days are not so very long ago.

Mr Kay was very worried about the school water supply which he said was poisonous. He was also worried about so many children having diphtheria (two died), enteric fever and ringworm which we don't hear about now.

In 1914, the water was analysed and found to be undrinkable.

At this time, the school still had oil lamps, stoves and bucket toilets but the two big classrooms had been made into four by the building of two folding partitions.

## THE FUTURE

I think that the head boy and head girl with all the prefects should join together every Friday afternoon and have a kind of court.

All the school must come in and they will start with all the people who were bad, those people will stand up and the court would punish them.

Then all the good people will be called out and will be awarded a merit badge. The court might also consider suggestions to improve the school — like the 4th year common room, change the times of schools and a vending machine for drinks. — Susan Walker.

In space one (on the plan) I would like to have a mini sports centre. I would make the outside walls of wood and put felt all round and build a roof of the same material. I would have archery, badminton, table tennis, and a trampoline. In the rest of space one I would put a crazy playground with a slide, an old tank, a roundabout, two sets of swings, I would have a heater skelter and charge 1/2p a go and this money would go to the school fund. — Michael Alland.

Space 2: We would cultivate some of the land for vegetables for the school dinners. It would also save a great deal of money. We would grow greens, potatoes and carrots, as they are not too difficult to grow.

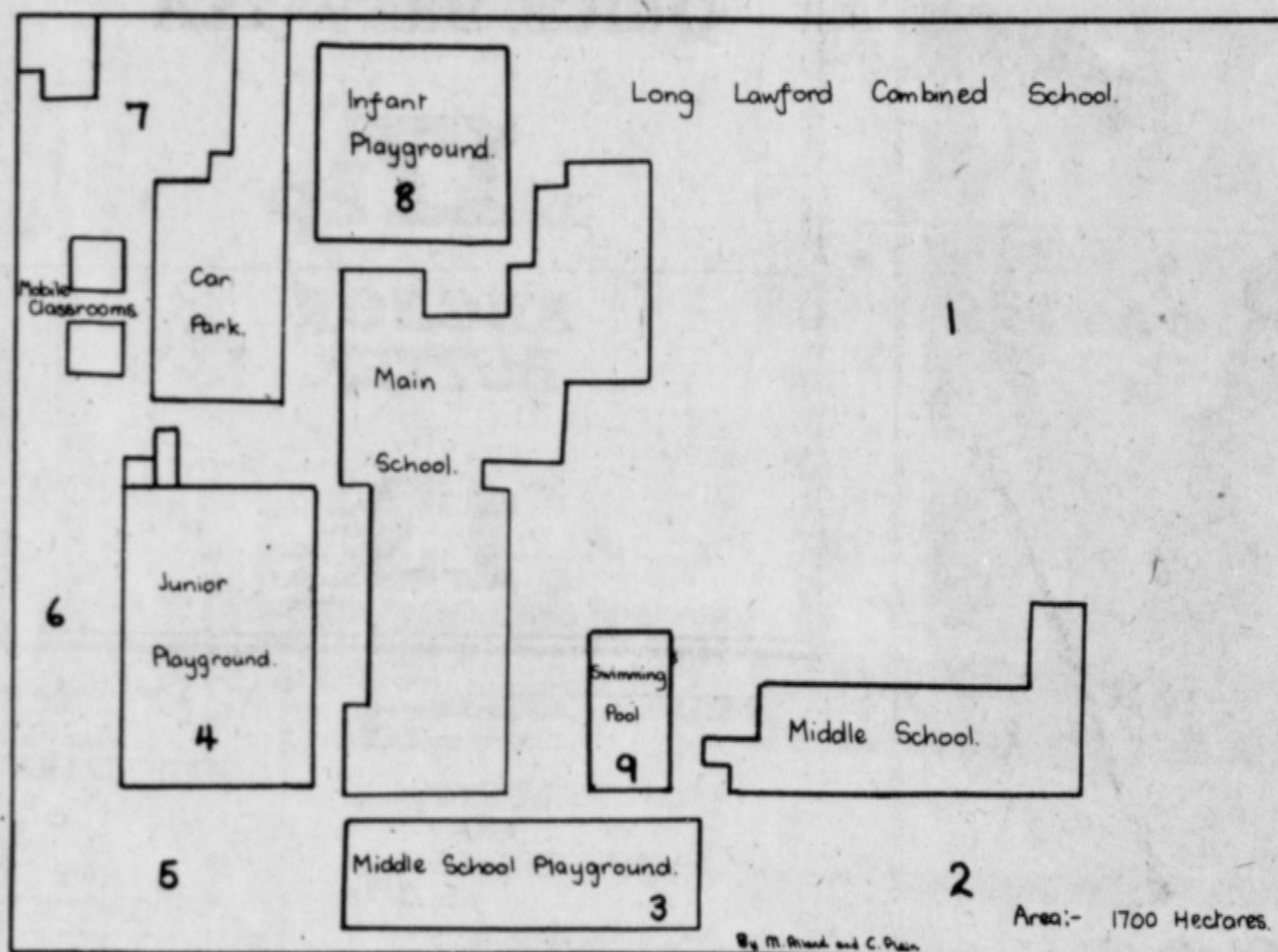
The pupils could do it during play time. This would be very interesting and enjoyable and you would soon know how to grow the different plants. — Helen Jeyes.

Space 3: On the middle school playground, we could have a crazy golf course. The builders could build humps, dips and pipes to make it fun, and make it a nine hole course because the playground is not all that big. — Ian Bunton.

Space 4: I think tennis courts would be the ideal thing for this area. Tennis is a game for children of any age to play and enjoy. Also, the teachers could make use of them. — Caroline Baker.

Space 5: The children could bring old unwanted bikes to school. These would be given a number, people who wanted to ride them could draw for their

number. Some of the bikes could be made "crazy" with square wheels or one big and one small wheel. — Paul Smith.



## AUDREY & MICHAEL HOLT

Newsagent and Post Office

Townsend Lane, Long Lawford

Telephone Rugby 5122

Good Selection of

## SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Rulers, Pens, Pencils, Mathematical Instruments, Platignum Pens, Felt

Tips, Pencil cases, Dictionaries, Ready reckoners



## STANDARD FIREWORKS NOW ON SALE

Join our Christmas Club and choose from our fine selection of ANNUALS, XMAS CARDS, CALENDARS, IDEAL TOYS, ACTION GAMES AND TOYS, BRITAINS MODELS, JIG-SAWS, BOXES OF CHOCOLATES.