THE attractive buildings now occupied by Weyhill Preparatory School were originally built as a British Army Infant School. This school vacated the premises in June 1971 and between July and September preparations were made for the opening of Weyhill, a Tanglin Trust School that was badly needed to absorb the long waiting list of Tanglin Preparatory and Raeburn Park Schools.

Delightfully situated, amidst trees and peaceful green surroundings, away from the hustle and bustle of city noise, the buildings consist of a two storey block of ten similarly designed classrooms each complete with an adjoining store room, a large well-appointed hall complete with stage, and an administration block comprising the Headmistress's room, the office and the staffroom.

There were nine very hectic weeks prior to the opening of the school on 13th September 1971. A large number of text books and equipment had already been ordered from England as it had been acknowledged for some considerable time that another Tanglin Trust school would make its debut that year. Nevertheless, there still remained a million and one things to organise. Most important of all was the recruitment of a good staff, each member possessing enthusiasm and a sense of humour so necessary for taking the school through its first year and overcoming inevitable initial problems. Then the complete redecoration of the building, the ordering of chairs and tables, office furniture and equipment, stationery and library books. In addition a uniform and a suitable name for the school had to be decided upon.

However, due to the determination of the staff, the interest of parents, the support of the Governors and the delight of the children in being the first pupils of a new school, the first year passed smoothly and quickly. A new school just does not happen overnight and during the past two years we have been constantly building upon our resources and formulating numerous plans for future additions.

The majority of the school's pupils are the sons and daughters of expatriates working here in Singapore. Although predominantly British, many of our children, all aged between 4½ and 11 years, do come from a wide variety of countries and those who are not native English speakers have a very good command of the language.

The broad aims of the school are to educate each child as a whole by providing a stimulating environment where social, emotional, intellectual and physical development can take place and where the role of the teacher is essentially a guiding influence leading each child on to further discoveries and teaching him to think for himself. It is now widely recognised that children learn best through their own experience and interests. Consequently we aim to make each class room a lively and interesting place where children are happy and busy and where a quietly enforced discipline is present.

The children are grouped according to age in classes of not more than 28. There is no streaming and so each of the ten classes contains children of mixed ability in the care of a class teacher. Music and French are taken in the Junior classes by staff who have specialised in these subjects. We are also fortunate to have a full time remedial teacher with a newly completed classroom of her own, and at all times of the day small groups of children may be seen on the way to her room to receive individual attention for their reading, English and mathematics from which they derive considerable benefit.

Each day the Infant and Transition classes enjoy numerous activities which include reading, story writing, number work, music and movement. Physical education, discussions of specimens brought in for the nature table and periods of creative activity which...
(Weyhill Preparatory School cont. from page 4).

... involve the use of a variety of media. The approach is essentially individual, and the children work happily, each engrossed in his immediate task. Sand and water activities take place outside the classrooms, as indeed do a variety of other activities.

In the five Junior classes that are housed upstairs, children may be seen working in groups or individually in their rooms and also outside in the corridors. The latter affords the necessary space for model making, clay work, painting and numerous other activities often connected with the various class projects.

English and Mathematics are taught daily and the remainder of the time is spent on social studies, P.E., science, music and for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year classes, French. Excursions to factories and other places of interest such as the harbour, ship-yard and Jurong Bird Park are encouraged and often these visits form the basis of class projects. The interesting displays of work that are constantly being put in each room reflect the enthusiasm of the children.

Wednesday is the "activity day" and between the two mid-morning breaks children from the Junior classes follow an activity of their choice. These include Drama, Country Dancing, the playing of the Recorder & Melodica, Needlework, Art & Craft, Games and a Chess & Stamp Group. Activities may be changed each term and this time provides good opportunities for the children of different age groups to work together.

The Staff are zealous teachers and are always keen to follow any of the short teachers' courses on a variety of subjects that have been made available to us during the past year. These act as a stimulus and have formed the basis of some interesting work in science, art & craft and music.

The attractive hall, decorated with work pictures and models from the various classes, houses our reference and fiction libraries and is the venue for daily assemblies. The children are encouraged to participate in these and every Friday the assembly is taken by a class and is often in the form of a play, mime, puppet show or involves the use of the tape recorder, children's poems, stories and illustrations.

Time has been given to thinking of people less fortunate than ourselves and the children have actively participated in holding a sale of cakes and old toys in order to raise funds to provide equipment for the sick room of an old peoples home.

I think it is true to say that all those in Weyhill have enjoyed watching it grow from just a building to the lively community that it is today. The past year has produced several 'firsts' for us—three Christmas cards designed by pupils, the introduction of an audio-visual French course, a full time remedial teacher, our two Christmas evenings comprising Junior Four's "Aladdin" followed by a carol service and tableau, and last but not least our first school magazine. The latter will contain contributions from a very large percentage of the school and promises to give the reader a lively all round account of school life and an insight into the children's opinions.

With this academic year coming to a close we are looking to the immediate future and considering plans which will encourage and help the development of the school. Our pleasant but rather restricted area of grass around the building makes a football pitch impossible and allows for only one reasonably sized netball court. Badminton nets are erected in front of the classrooms but we hope, in the near future, to be able to organise something more in the way of sport for our older pupils.

We feel that a good relationship between school and home is essential and parents are always welcome to visit the school and discuss any problems that they may have. Parents evenings are held on two nights each term. On such occasions the whole school is open for viewing.

Although it has only had a short life, Weyhill is now a well-established school with an identity of its own and we look forward with anticipation and enthusiasm to its further development during the coming year.

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