

School in Toft

The earliest record of a school in Toft would appear to be a Sunday School for boys and a day-school mostly for girls, with 30 pupils, in 1819. Better-off parents sent their sons to Kingston and Eversden to be schooled.

In his will, John Preston, a former Rector of Toft, gave £500 in trust in 1827 for the education of the poor children of Toft and Caldecote. However, as there was no longer any school in Toft in 1827, the interest simply accumulated until the Trustees purchased a house in the village to serve as the schoolmaster's residence, where an adjoining workshop was used as the girls' schoolroom. This was extended in 1846 and a boys' room was also built. As well as the income from John Preston's charity, there was a charge of one penny a week for each pupil and grants from national government.

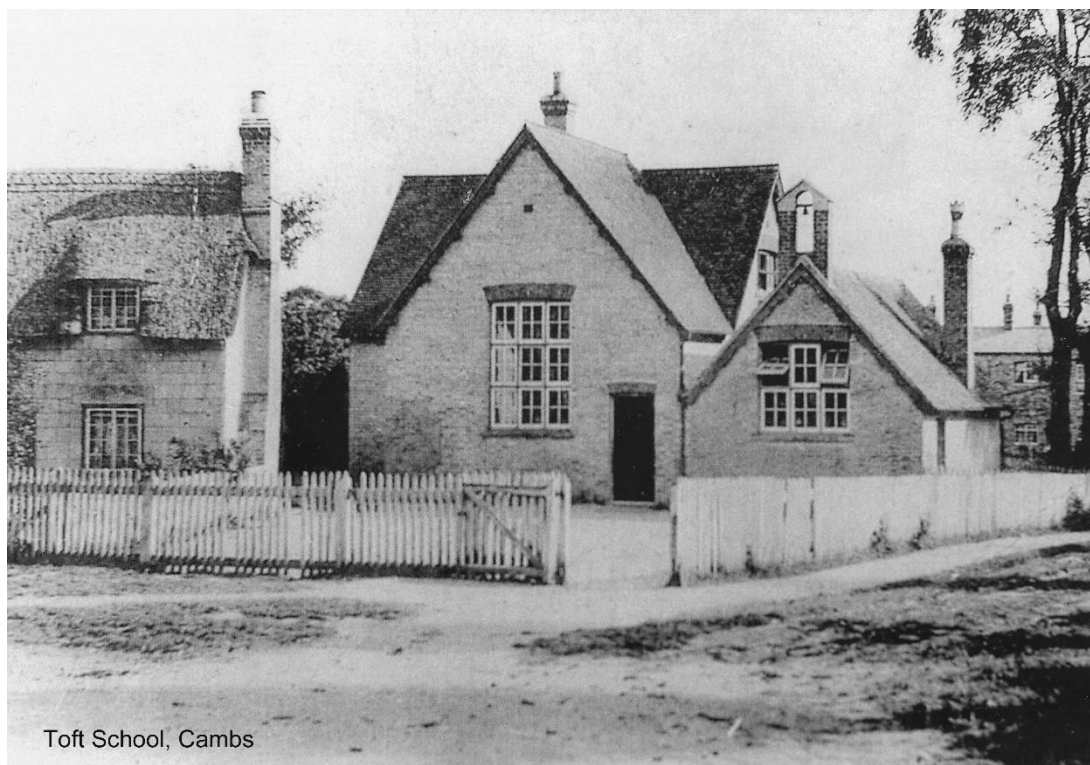
From 1850 onwards there were further government grants for a pupil-teacher and for books and maps. In a will dated 1885, the Revd. E. A. Powell (Rector at Toft 1843–92), donated a piece of land adjoining the school.

Average attendance at the school went up and down over the 100-year period 1837-1938:

1837	1850	1850-80	1880-90	1908	1938
40	68	50-60	25-30	45	14

Toft School was closed in 1959 and Toft children went to Comberton after that time. The Toft school-house was sold and became the People's Hall.

Images





Toft School 1898



1953

back row, 4th from left: Richard Cutter; back row, far right on rocking contraption: Roger Cutter; middle row 4th right (next to teacher): Yvonne Cutter

Thanks to Richard Cutter for identifying himself and his siblings and for providing dates for some of the photos.



1954



1953/4 Just after Mrs Radford moved on and Mrs Mitchell took over as head teacher. Georgette Cutter had just started school and sits at the teacher's right hand in this picture.



1956

1957





1957-8 – names given below, many thanks to Kath Clark

MRS. H. BALCOMBE

Toft Primary School 1957/58

BACK ROW:- DAVID GILBERT IAN LUIGI MERVYN BARRY
 WHITE ROBINSON RAWINSON COBBELL BADCOCK COLLETT

MIDDLE ROW STANDING:- ANTON SUSAN DAWN MARY KATHERINE ANN MARION IAN
 COLLETT HOBBS HOBBS BAUESTOCK BALCOMBE ROBINSON READ HOBBS

MIDDLE ROW SEATED:- PETER JOHN MARGARET MRS MRS MARILYN HELEN SIMON
 HOBBS TEBBIN BALCOMBE MITCHELL NEUMANN COLLETT WHITE TALLEY

FRONT ROW SEATED ON MATS:- WENDY ROSEMARY JANICE ROSEMARY
 MANDERSON COLLETT BADCOCK LYNCH

Kath Clark



1958-9

Toft School outing Tower of London late 1940s





TOFT SCHOOL GROUP: D. Tebbit (far left), Leslie Woolf (front centre, blonde hair), Ronald Woolf (far right, back row)