



ST. THOMAS CENTRE NURSERY

1937 to 2014 From Rea Street South Nursery School to Reaside Nursery School to St. Thomas Centre Nursery 77 years of commitment to inner city children and their families

1942 to 1977

Rea Street Infant School opened its new Nursery Class in 1937.

Rea Street South Nursery School opened as a separate Nursery in 1942.

The school became Local Authority maintained on 25th February 1946.

First Parents' Club opened in 1948.

First residential holiday was to Llanfairfechan for 25 children in 1950.

The donkey 'Rebel' and the goat 'Nicky' took up residence.



Miss Margaret Randon, the headmistress, puts four-year-old Michael Price on Rebel, the donkey, at Rea Street South Nursery School in Deritend, Birmingham. Miss P. J. Aze, assistant at the school, makes sure Rebel stands still. The school was to have closed, but the plan has had to be postponed.

Rebel will stay with 100 young friends

A nursery school which cares for 108 healthy youngsters, including 100 children, has gained an extra lease of life in its old home.

The children and their eight animal friends should be able to stay for at least three more years at the school in Rea Street, South, Deritend, Birmingham.

Rebel, the donkey, will stay with them. So will Monty, the school dog, a hamster, a guinea pig, a rabbit and three goldfish.

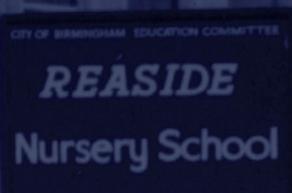
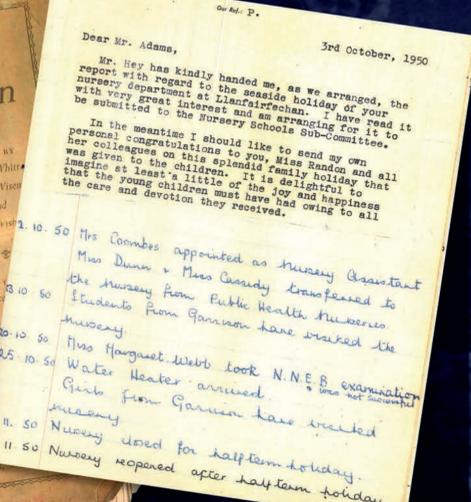
The school was to have been closed and the children sent to more modern premises in nearby Mowbray Street and new nursery classes at Chandos Junior and Infant School.

The closure was opposed strongly by staff at Rea Street and the parents, who raised a petition urging that the school should be allowed to stay in its old, spacious home.

The decision to replace the school has not been dropped. But the Education Committee has had to postpone the move because the replacements cannot be fitted into its building programme yet.

Miss Margaret Randon, head of the school was "very pleased because time is on our side."

"The great advantage here is the space. Many children come from high-rise flats where there is nowhere to play."



1977 To 1999

The Nursery moved to Mowbray Street, and was renamed Reaside Nursery School on 24th March 1977.

Nursery was 'home from home' for the children; cocoa and rusks were served every day.

Children were taught to brush their teeth, polish their shoes, knit, sew and polish silver!

Donkey 'Rebel' was taken by staff to appear in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

Monty the Labrador came to Nursery every day.

Residential holidays to Dodford Farm began in 1980.



2000 to Present

The Nursery moved to its present site in January 2000; renamed St Thomas Centre Nursery, it became Birmingham's first 'Early Excellence Centre'.

The staff team expanded from seven members to its current thirty five. The new gardens provide an oasis for the children. The Nursery provides healthy fresh food, cooked on site.

The Nursery is renowned for its inclusive practice, its family support, and its excellent early years curriculum, recognised by Ofsted in four consecutive 'Outstanding' inspections. Generations of local families have attended the Nursery.

