



Sir William Craven the Founder of the School

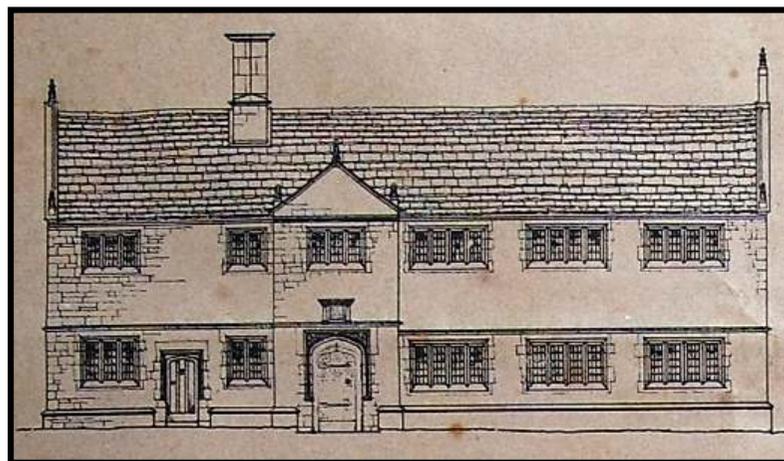
Attributed to Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger
1561-1635

For information about admission to the School contact
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Visit our website:
<http://burnsallprimaryschool.co.uk/>

BURNSALL SCHOOL

A Brief Historical Guide



Burnsall School is Voluntary Aided Primary School for children aged five to eleven.

It is one of the oldest schools in the country to be housed in its original school building.

The school was founded by Sir William Craven as a grammar school for boys in 1602.

It served the ancient parish of Burnsall which covered a large area from Conistone and Kilnsey in the north to Bordley, Hetton, Rylstone, Cracoe, Thorpe, Burnsall, Appletreewick, and Skyreholme in the south.



Some answers to frequently asked questions

- The land on which the school was built was given by Sir Stephen Tempest of Broughton Hall in 1601.
- Sir William Craven built the school in 1602.
- The first Schoolmaster was Lawrence Taylor who later became Head Master at Ermystead's Grammar School in Skipton.
- Schoolmasters lived in the house on the left of the building.
- There is a brass memorial on the north wall in Burnsall Church to Schoolmaster Robert Heye, MA who died in 1694 aged 36.
- Up to 1848, School Masters had to be unmarried. Clerks in Holy Orders (Church of England priests).
- The school day started at 06.00 in summer and at 07.00 in winter. It ended at 18.00 in summer and 17.00 in winter.
- Scholars said prayers twice each day in the morning and evening.
- Children aged 4 to 16 were taught in one room but organized into forms or classes.
- They learned Latin, English, Arithmetic, the Catechism, New Testament and good manners.
- Many of the boys went on to St John's College at Cambridge.
- The first boy to graduate with a BA was George Bland in 1616. He then returned to Burnsall to become Master of the School.
- There was a dormitory upstairs for boarders from outlying farms and villages.
- It is said that Eugene Aram, who was hanged for murder in 1769 was an Usher (assistant master) at the school.

- Girls were first admitted in about 1825.
- In 1878 the school became an all-age elementary school for children aged 5 to 13.
- In 1944 it became a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School for children aged 5 to 11 (See stone plaque on wall to right of the school gate)
- In 1965 an extension was built at the rear for infants aged 5 to 7.
- The Dormitory was made into a flat for the Headteacher.
- In 2002 an extra classroom was built on top of the infants' class room and the dormitory converted to class rooms
- The school is now known as Burnsall VA Primary School and serves Burnsall, Appletreewick, Skyreholme, Thorpe, Hebden and surrounding districts.

Sir William Craven the Founder

- Born in 1548 in a small cottage in Appletreewick
- Went to London in about 1562 to become a tailor's apprentice.
- He later inherited his master's business for 3 years before starting his own business as a merchant tailor.
- In 1600 he was chosen to be an Alderman.
- In 1601 he was chosen to be Sheriff of London.
- He founded Burnsall Grammar School in 1602.
- He was knighted by King James I in 1603.
- In 1605 he compiled the school statutes which set out how the school should be governed after his death
- He became Lord Mayor of London in 1610.
- He refurbished Burnsall Church in 1612 and built the bridge over the River Wharfe.
- He purchased Elm Tree House (now High Hall) in Appletreewick.
- He died in 1618 and is buried in the city Church of St Andrew Undershaft.
- He bequeathed £50 to the poor of Burnsall.
- His widow Lady Elizabeth Craven and son Lord John Craven also left money for the school and poor people of the Parish of Burnsall.