

History of Danegrove School

RIDGEWAY AVENUE

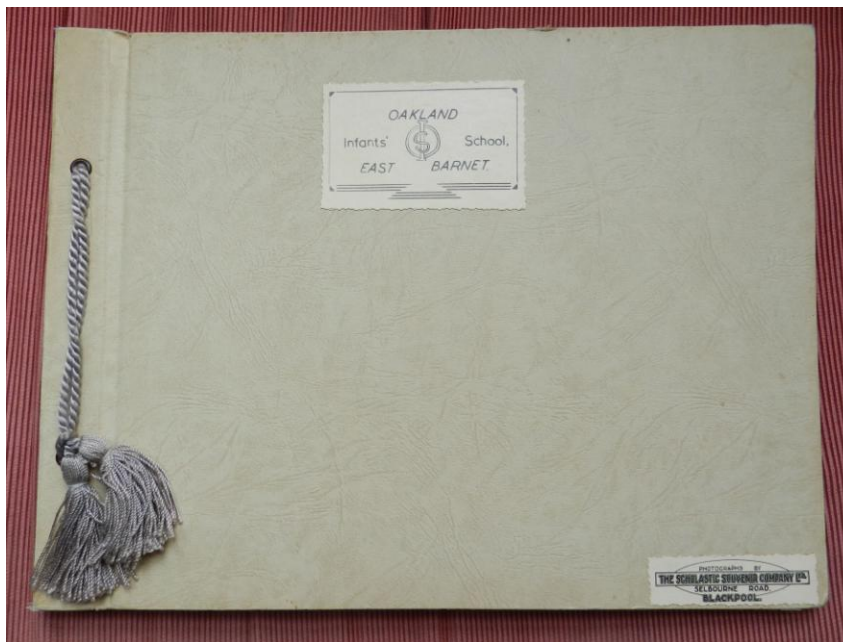
The Ridgeway Avenue part of our school, housing Reception and Year 1, was formerly Oakland Infant School. This building was designed by the famous Architects Co-Partnership in 1950, making use of a modified form of a steel frame with precast concrete panels and coloured infill which was the most modern design at that time. What was different from the way schools were previously built was the way that the corridors zig-zag, making a more informal learning space.

The building is listed with The National Heritage as being of special architectural or historic interest. There is a picture of the school on the website of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Despite being taken in 1951, the school looks much the same as it does today.



After the war, art works were often commissioned for new schools to develop children's visual experiences and the tall hall at Oaklands had a mural, a rural scene (pictured above) especially designed and painted by Fred Millett, also in 1951. It is still there, although now covered over. Fred Millett went on to design posters for London Transport.

You can see from the coloured picture on the left that it was not the ideal backdrop to school productions.



We have an old book from Oakland Infant School too, pictured on the left. This is a photograph album and one page is dated 1954. These are the photos - do you recognise anyone? Do let us know, if you do! Or of any memories if you used to go to this school.



These women are probably the teachers. They are also shown with their classes, see below.



This smiling man may well be the headmaster.



Someone has written 'Mrs Banks, Class 1' under this photo (above).



The Dining Hall.



Who are these ladies on the left? They look a bit like nurses.

Oakland Infant School closed on 31 March 1991 to reopen as part of Danegrove.

