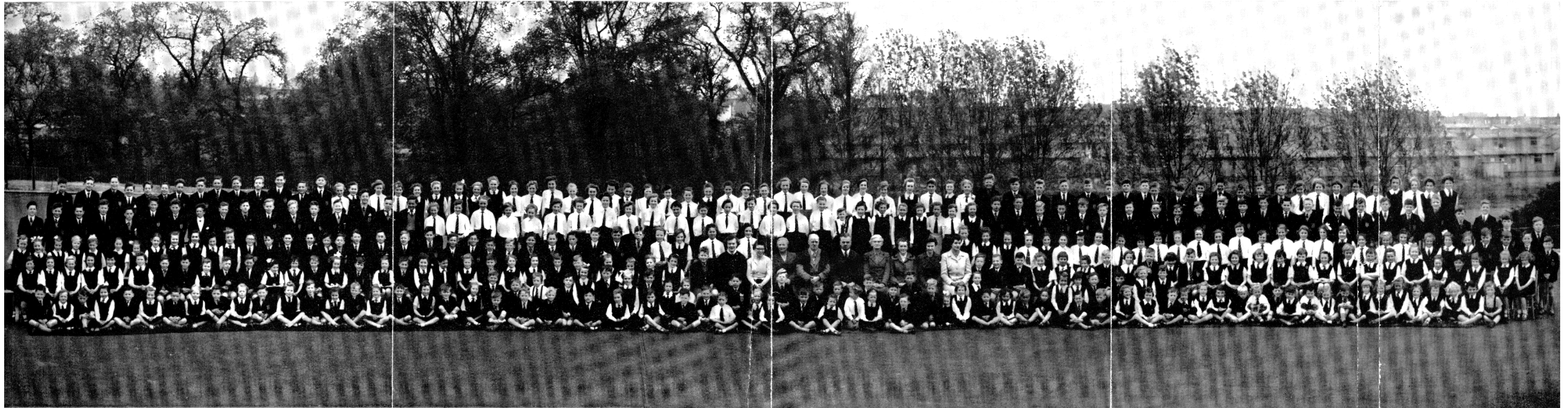


1958: END OF THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

More than 300 pupils move to Duddingston Primary

PORTOBELLO PRIMARY SCHOOL

MAY 1958



From its opening in 1876 the school also had a primary department – indeed the 1872 Education Act made schooling compulsory only between the ages of 5 and 13, so about a year after what we would regard as primary school age today. Those going on to ‘Higher Grade’ studies (and later Secondary classes) were in the minority.

In order to alleviate overcrowding in the school on Niddrie Road (now Duddingston Park), at 2 pm on Friday 28th February 1958 the Primary Department moved *en bloc* to the newly completed Duddingston Primary School on Duddingston Road (it also took in pupils from the existing Duddingston School near the site of the mills). So at the start of the 1958-59 academic year our school for the first time, literally, became ‘Portobello Secondary School’.

The headmaster records in the school log that this ‘panoramic photograph’ of the Primary Department was taken on 23rd May, 1958.

All credit to the more than 360 pupils, 9 staff and the photographer who captured this memorable image which appeared in the 1958 issue of ‘The Tower’, the school magazine.

The photograph was taken at Duddingston Primary. The Figgate Park is behind the assembled classes and to the right of the image across the valley you can see some of the ‘prefabs’ constructed in the area after WWII.

OUR NEW SCHOOL

Walls of grey and ceiling blue,
Curtains yellow, lino too,
A blackboard that goes round and round,
A portcullis that goes up and down,
Stage and hall with glass galore,
And to these wonders add one more –
I heard my sister sneeze next door.

*Right, from the school
magazine The Tower
1958 Mary Butt (Primary
5) gives her impressions of
her new school.*

