

Amerens Bosma is a student, age 10. She had an interview with her grandmother. We have tried to translate it in English so the children of our eTwinning friends can read it.

I went to a Catholic school St. Radbod. It was a small school. The building had five classrooms. In one classroom there were between 15 and 20 children. There usually were two groups in one classroom. Nowadays we say group 1, 2 etc. but we called it class 1, class 2 etc. Children of age 4 and 5 visited a special school called Kindergarten. When I was six, I went to the Primary school St. Radbod. (see plan).



Like nowadays we had to learn reading, writing and arithmetic. We started writing with a pencil and in group 1; in the next group we learned to write with a pen like this. (left) In the right there is an example of our handwriting.





Two children were seated in one desk Each desk had an inkpot in the middle. We had to sit still.



School started at half past eight till half past eleven and in the afternoon from one o'clock till four o'clock.

When school started we had to line up in a row and stand still. The classroom was heated with a big potbelly stove. Each classroom had its own teacher who was called *meester* or *juf*. There were no special teachers for instance for gymnastics or music. I loved gymnastics: balance beam, horse, rope-climbing, jumping, running etc.

On Thursday the girls had to stay longer; they had to do needle work. Discipline was very important. If you did something that was not allowed, you were punished. You had to stand in the corner of the classroom or in the corridor. Sometimes the teacher went to your parents and then they would punish you once again. There was a break at ten o'clock. We did all kinds of games like play with marbles, touch, running, hiding etc. Everyone was allowed to take part. When the teacher had his birthday, there was a party. If one of the pupils had his or her birthday, everyone congratulated him or her, but there never was a treat. The big party was at April 30th, when the queen had her birthday. There was no school. In the towns and villages there was a real party. There was a procession, singing games etc. For children, it was the biggest party of the year.

-  gym
-  classroom
-  corridor
-  chamber principal
-  playground
-  garden
-  House principal
-  toilets
-  gate
-  cycle shed

plan of the St. Radbod

