

# Stoneleigh School

## 1743



In 1710 Thomas the 2nd Lord Leigh had given £800 in Trust for the foundation of a school for the children of Stoneleigh, Stareton, Wootton and Ashow. He intended that his son Edward should “suffer a certain building called the Court House to be fitted up and made into a convenient school, to teach school there forever.” A further £1,000 was added to this sum by the Honourable Ann Leigh in her Will of 1731.

Edward the 3rd Lord Leigh neglected to fulfil his father’s wishes, however, and it was only in 1740 that Thomas 4th Lord Leigh gave ground “near to the churchyard for the school and Master’s House,” thus carrying out his grandfather’s and aunt’s wishes. It seems to have been built by 1743 and was to provide an education for both boys and girls.

An inventory taken some years later records items in the Front Entrance, Front Parlour, Kitchen, Brewhouses (2), Boys’ Schoolroom, Girls’ Schoolroom, Sitting Room, Cellar, 2 Bedrooms and a Lumber Room, a Scullery and a Pantry. The Boys’ schoolroom contained amongst other things three writing desks, four benches, three slates and eight rails of hat pegs; the Girls’ schoolroom four writing desks, twelve benches, six stools and seven rails of bonnet pegs. One assumes that a great deal of sharing was the norm!