

IT'S a mystery lost in the depths of time - well, 43 years anyway. Greenhill Primary School is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month and children and staff enjoyed a special day of celebrations.

So why then was the school's official opening ceremony not performed until January 1959?

Head Jim Marriott has no idea. Neither does governor Richard Coghill, who was one of the school's first pupils way back in 1952.

"It's certainly a bit of a puzzle - no one seems to know the reason. Perhaps people simply forgot," Jim said.

It's hoped that none of the current crop of over 500 pupils forget the school's special day in 2002.

A golden jubilee assembly was attended by Lord Mayor Coun Marjorie Barker and each child was given a commemorative coin.

There followed a picnic with performances by clowns, jugglers and a magician, as well as visits by Sheffield United and Sheffield Steelers players.

**Do you know why Greenhill officially opened seven years too late? Write to Mike Russell, The Star, York Street, Sheffield, S1 1PU.**

Greenhill was a state of the art school in its day with the emphasis on space and light and 'luxury' features such as glass bricks in the hall.

It replaced the old stone village school which is now a doctor's surgery and was built to cope with the major influx of population caused by the construction of the new Low Edges council estate.

Mr Coghill said Greenhill was seen as cutting edge in 1952.

"Not everything was ideal though - there were 57 children in my class!" he added.

For the longest serving member of staff Carol Yates, who started teaching there in 1972, it was also a time for looking back.

She recalled how for nearly 40 years the school was occupied by separate junior and infant schools, with a big green door forming a firm dividing line between the two.

"There have been changes for good and bad in my time. Now we have locks, cameras, alarms and all sorts of increased security. We felt safer in my early days, we didn't worry so much," Carol said. "We didn't have a computer in 1972 or even our own library. Now we have several libraries, lots of books and plenty of computers."



**Some things never change:** Pupils from different eras in their first day at school Photo Andrew Part



**Changing times:** Schools lessons in 1952