

Froebel Educational Institute
St. Mary's
Freeland
Oxon.

November 12, 1939.

Dear Mr & Mrs Fletcher

I think you realize that unless we had been able to come to this house at a moment's notice, we should have been hard put to it to find a refuge in September, as we had no means to pay a heavy retaining rent beforehand. Owing to the kindness of our hostesses we were able to settle in here very happily.

Now they are anxious that as soon as we can give them back their premises, they may use them for their original purpose, and though they will if necessary keep us till Easter, we on our side feel that the time has come to find rather larger premises, where, with all the children under one roof, we can have more classrooms and the whole building to ourselves.

There are already a large number of schools in the far west, and we feel we shall probably best meet your desires by staying as near to London as seems compatible with safety. With this in view I have been house hunting in West Herts, Bucks and Oxfordshire. The number of large houses suitable for our purpose is no longer great, which is one reason why I think we should move soon. There is a house at Little Gaddesden which I find very attractive. It has

just been redecorated and entirely renovated by an American who understands the need for warmth and light. Into this house we should be able to bring our own school furniture. It is large enough to house us all comfortably, has main water and electricity and central heating. It stands 600 ft. high on the Chilterns overlooking Ashridge Park, in the village but remote from any built up area. At the same time, the train service to Berkhamstead is a very good one, and the buses from there to Little Claddesden come right up to the school. There is a very good Trust House in the village which parents would probably find useful.

Before I take my plans to the Institute Committee on Nov. 23rd, I should very much like to know whether I have your approval in moving to Little Claddesden, should the Committee approve. I am anxious to keep our present body of pupils intact and to add to them till we have fifty in all, which number will we believe make for a good school and easier finance.

Will you let me know as soon as possible on the enclosed P.C. whether you feel content for me to urge the Committee to let us move to Little Claddesden, or whether you would like me to look in Sussex or Hants. for a house, as I feel I have now exhausted the N.W. of the home counties in my search.

Yours sincerely

BARBARA PRIESTMAN