



# Hawthorn Herald

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## Oak Tree Tragedy *(as seen by Mr. Hempson-Jones)*

by Yasmin Green

In the spring half term the huge oak tree was sadly cut down. Mr Hempson-Jones said that they think that the tree has been there for 100 to 175 years. The tree specialists had tried to save it. They had pruned the branches but the growth that had happened since then had not been good enough. So they looked into the trunk with a special technical instru-

ment and they found soft wood in the main trunk and so they didn't think the trunk was safe to support the tree.



Oak tree being removed

They cut a lot of the tree down with chain

saws. The hardest part to cut was the trunk so they sliced it and they used a large vehicle to pull the tree with a rope. It took two and a half days to take the tree down!

A group of children are going to help improve the back playground and around the oak tree. They are going to plant some other trees in the autumn.

### Special points of interest:

- ✓ Veteran Oak Tree removed.
- ✓ Hawthorns scoop Garden Award.
- ✓ New Year 1 Classroom.
- ✓ Back Playground improvement.
- ✓ Environment Week a big hit.
- ✓ Summer Fair success.
- ✓ District Sports update by Miss Rolfe.

## Glorious Green Fingers!! -

by Emma Terry

In the last few weeks, the children in the gardening club have been tidying up the school grounds ready for the mayors visit.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July, the mayor and several other members of the council visited the school to judge our gardens for the gardening award. Mrs McKay and Mr Hempson-Jones

showed them around the Tudor Knot garden, the organic garden and bottle greenhouse. The gardening club children showed off how much they knew about the vegetables and plants they had planted. They really impressed the judges with their amazing knowledge about the school grounds!

Once the judges had

been round all the schools they chose our school as the winning one!!! Everyone was extremely happy about that. Well done to all.



Well done to Mrs McKay & the Gardening Club.

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## Oak Tree Tragedy—'Mrs McKay's Perspective' by Amy Mallett

During the summer half term a tragic event occurred at The Hawthorns Primary School!!! The oak tree had to be cut down!!! This was because it was very old and could be dangerous. I interviewed Mrs McKay before the event to find out more. Mrs McKay said that they had known for a very long time that the oak tree was poorly. But they only found out that it had to be cut down a few weeks before half term. They had specially trained people who told them that it was rotten through

the middle.

Before the oak tree came down Mrs McKay said that she thought without the tree that area of the playground would look quite bare. She told me that it must have grown because a bird dropped an acorn in the field, which turned into a tree. The Hawthorns School was built in fields around the oak tree, which is 4.7m once round the trunk.

We used the oak tree much more than we thought we did during our Education; for art, literacy, science and many

more subjects. So it is sad that the oak tree will be no longer be there.

The School is hoping to have a special person called a tree surgeon to make a sculpture out of the tree's wood and the left over trunk. They are also probably going to grow another oak tree in its memory.

*For more information visit the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association (WDVTA). The Oak tree is no. 151 and the smaller tree in the school grounds is no. 150.*

## The Year Five 50s and 60s Assembly by Emma Terry

The year 5s performed a 50s and 60s play on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The whole point of the assembly was so the year 5s could learn about different aspects of drama and history, whilst they are performing the play.

The assembly included a variety of songs from the 50s and 60s. There were some famous pop songs like 'We All Live in a Yellow Submarine' and some famous dance songs like 'Tuxedo Junction'. The play was extremely colourful because everyone brought in their own costumes, which was a wonderful sight to see!!

In the play the children

found old boxes in the shed and in the loft from which they were pulling out memories from the 50s and 60s. Then going back to the past and acting out the related scene.

All the year 5 children enjoyed performing the play and we hope the children that watched the play enjoyed it too!!

Yasmin (A performer of the play) said 'I think the play was really good!!'

At the end of the assembly Mrs Poole congratulated all the Year 5 children on their incredible assembly, she said 'It was an all singing, all

dancing assembly and you all look the part, sound the part and performed fantastically!!'

Mrs Goatly also congratulated them and shared with them something about her past in the 50s and 60s.



**A colourful group of Year 5s during their assembly.**