



Maximising the Potential of Every Child

**Waltham-on-the-Wolds CE Primary School  
with Pre-School**  
Melton Road  
Waltham on the Wolds  
Melton Mowbray  
Leicestershire  
LE14 4AJ  
Tel/Fax: 01664 464269  
Pre-School: 01664 464089  
[office@waltham.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@waltham.leics.sch.uk)  
[preschool2@waltham.leics.sch.uk](mailto:preschool2@waltham.leics.sch.uk)

[www.waltham.leics.sch.uk](http://www.waltham.leics.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr M Henderson  
Pre-School Leader: Mrs S Morris

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Dear Parents

## SCHOOL PLAYGROUND BEECH TREE

We apologise in having to close the school today. This is never something we undertake lightly. The forecast of exceptionally high winds with the associated risk of tree failure, combined with the tree's proximity to the school buildings meant that we had no choice but to close the school. During the school closure we have discussed the tree's safety with a number of experts who have all concluded that the tree does not constitute an immediate threat to the safety of the children, staff and parents and that the school can therefore be opened tomorrow.

During the half-term break there have also been some further developments concerning the tree. The School's Governing Body received a report commissioned by YMD Boon, the school's property maintenance company, from the tree specialists Symbiosis Consulting on the school playground beech tree. The report was commissioned to assess the tree's health prior to undertaking work to reduce the crown of the tree for which the school had been granted permission under the conditions of the Tree Preservation Order placed on the tree in 2012.

The expert report identified the presence of the Giant polypore fungus, which is spreading, and stated, "I have reviewed my previous recommendations and consider that the on-going stability of the tree is insufficiently certain to attempt to retain it by the implementation of a phased crown reduction." It went further to conclude that, "... Regrettably, in view of the outcome of this further assessment, I find that the only prudent course of action is to recommend that the tree be removed and an appropriate replacement planted in a more suitable location within the school grounds."

Given the report's findings which categorically state the increased risk due to the spread of the fungus, and the safety of the children, staff and parents in our school being paramount, Melton Borough Council have agreed with the report's findings to remove the tree.

We understand that the tree has been a feature of the school and the village for a long time and as well as the current staff, pupils and parents of the school, other members of the village may be interested in these developments. We would like to invite any interested members of the school and village community to



A Church of England  
Voluntary Aided School in the  
Diocese of Leicester

attend a meeting this **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October in the Harry Hunt at the village hall starting at 6.30pm.** At this meeting members of the Governing Body and a representative of YMD Boon Property Management Company will review the contents of this report. We will also discuss possibilities for the tree's replacement and its siting.

**If you would like to have a copy of the most recent report on the beech tree prior to this meeting, please feel free to call in to the school office to collect a copy.**

If you would like to attend the meeting, please complete the slip below, or telephone the school office on 01664 464269, by Wednesday morning. This will allow us to plan seating arrangements.

Yours sincerely

*pp. M. Henderson*

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body

---

**MEETING TO SHARE THE FINDINGS OF THE BEECH TREE REPORT  
WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – HARRY HUNT ROOM, VILLAGE HALL at 6.30PM**

I would like to attend the above meeting.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

