WESTSIDE JOURNAL

Ancient Oak FLATTENS Classrooms

Broad Oak Primary School will have to think of a new name following the storm that blew into town at the weekend.

The ancient oak tree has been a familiar sight for generations of children and parents who attended Broad Oak Primary School in Westside. But when the staff arrived on Monday morning, they found a devastating scene. The tree had blown down in the storm and crashed onto the school roof, destroying two classrooms and the staff room.

"It is a tragedy for the school," stated head teacher Anthony Morris (53). "We informed as many parents as possible, but some children still came on Monday morning."

In fact, the school has been visited by a steady stream of sightseers since the crash was discovered.

It could have been a worse tragedy had the school been occupied at the time.

"That old tree has been an accident waiting to happen," quoted Annie Drew, a concerned parent. "I've complained to the governors several times that it was unsafe, but they just ignored me."

Many of the pupils are delighted they have been given an extra week's holiday while the building is being made safe. But I spoke to one youngster from Year 6 who wasn't pleased at all.

"It's my last year here," he told me, "and I have lots of stuff to do before I go to the High School. I don't want to miss anything and fall behind."

In fact, he won't have to worry about that for long. The head teacher has arranged for temporary classrooms to be erected next week so it will be business as usual for the staff and pupils.

Mr Morris expressed sadness that the tree had fallen. "It has been a feature of the area for so long, we will all miss seeing it."

He also announced a competition for the pupils to design something out of the wood which will be erected in the school grounds so that the oak tree would be remembered. Pupils should send their entries to the school by the end of December.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Read the text together, and then answer the questions. Don't forget to support your answers with reference to the text.

1. What type of text is this? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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2. How does the writer capture the reader's attention and make them want to read the piece?

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3. What is the purpose of the sentence starting 'The ancient oak tree …'?

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4. Apart from the headline and opening paragraph, describe one feature of this text which is typical of writing of this type. Explain why it is used.

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5. On a separate piece of paper, make a flow chart to show how the writer has structured the content in the text. In each box, write a summary of what the writer does in that section. Use no fewer than four boxes and no more than six.

6. Write a suitable heading for each of the boxes in your flow chart. Try to make them sound like the headings you would find in this type of text.