



ARK Blacklands Primary Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to let you know about an issue with the Lime tree in the playground.

Unfortunately, the tree's roots are growing towards the school building and causing considerable damage to the tarmac surface outside the Year 1 classes. This is causing a Health & Safety issue as it is a trip hazard. We are also concerned that the roots are working their way towards the water and gas pipes underground and could very likely cause damage to them.

We have therefore sought advice from a specialist company to help us decide the best way to deal with the tree. We have also spoken to the Arboriculturalist at Hastings Borough Council and he has confirmed that the tree is not subject to a preservation order.

Their professional advice was to remove the tree completely to prevent any further damage to either the pipes or the main structure of the building, therefore we have decided to go ahead with the works to ensure the safety of the building. This will be completed out of school hours.

Once the tree has been removed, we will then have repairs made to the tarmac to remove the trip hazards.

I would like to reassure you that we are not planning to remove any other trees from the grounds, and hope that you will understand that we have explored all possible options and taken professional advice before making this decision.

Kindest regards

Mrs Gill Hulls
Business Manager