

## HAGLEY FIRST SCHOOL 1939-1999

The school was opened on December 4th 1939 under unusual circumstances. It has been expected that there would be around 65 pupils of 5 to 11 years old. However, with the outbreak of war, the school in fact opened with an additional 71 pupils who had been evacuated from Boulton Road Junior School in Birmingham along with their teachers. By the end of the first month the school had over 140 pupils and 7 teachers. It then suffered, along with the rest of the Midlands, from a severe winter and was closed for several days due to a lack of children to teach!

Indeed the school celebrated the 60th anniversary recently and our children performed a repertoire of songs from the wartime era to an audience from the local community, including the local MP, Julie Kirkbride. As was the case in 1939, the school assembly included the singing of patriotic songs and the reading of a prayer by the Headmaster.

The school always enjoyed an excellent reputation and early inspection reports indicate a high standard of work by the pupils and a good record of attendance generally. This is, of course, true today. A major reorganisation came in the early 1970s with the change to a three tier education system and the school in Park Road became a first school for pupils of 5-9 years old. Since then there has been a rapid increase in size and popularity with the current school taking in over 400 pupils between 4 and 9, including a school owned Kindergarden. This in turn led to additional building work and the site now has 17 classrooms and 3 specialist teaching and resource areas.

Given such a successful pedigree the school is proud to continue the high standards of education for the children of Hagley and the surrounding areas.

Our Millennium garden is nearly complete and we plan to bury our time capsule somewhere on site for future generations to discover!

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