



● In the grounds of Wheatley County Primary School and its new extension, children sit in the village stocks. The stocks are intended for practical history lessons only.

A classroom under a chestnut tree

DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER

IT is a fort and it is a class-room. It is a playground and a theatre. It is a small boys' dream conker-land, where the husks split open as they hit the pavement and lie waiting for the children to pick them up when they arrive at school each morning.

At the Wheatley County Primary School, Oxon, builders have paved and walled round the old chestnut tree to make an open-air classroom with a difference.

Mr. Glenville Evans, the headmaster, said: "When this year the school was extended for the third time in six years we decided it was such a beautiful tree we made recommendations that it should be kept."

Now it is the centre of work and play for 286 children. During lessons in the fine weather it is used for drama, dancing and recorder lessons. It has even been a subject for practical mathematics, checking on the builders by measuring the radius and the height of the wall.

In summer, prize-giving, and an open-day entertainment will probably be held there.



● The school tuck shop Three five-year-old children play shopkeepers in one of the classrooms.



● Domestic training . . . a classroom corner converted into a kitchen where the girls try their hand at cooking and ironing.

● The paved and walled area under a chestnut tree where lessons are held . . . and conkers collected.



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