

# Herefordshire Schools First



**Bulletin 2**  
**27 January 2008**

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*Dear friend*

Our schools protest has gone national! Following the withdrawal of the proposals by the LEA last week, the whole issue of government cuts to rural schools has now been picked up across the board. Plus we have the latest news of local events, petitions, action groups...

Please circulate this to friends and fellow supporters. Ask them to sign up on the website. And if you have any ideas for the site and the Bulletin, please email me details on the above address.

Thanks

*Jesse*

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Hundreds of village schools face axe - *The Observer***

Hundreds of village schools across Britain are being closed, despite a long-term pledge by the government to maintain education in the countryside. The policy U-turn will affect 30,000 children in up to 300 schools in its first stage...

[http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk\\_news/story/0,,2247635,00.html](http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,2247635,00.html)

### **National Association of Small Schools Condemns Government Cuts**

The Government U-turn shows in heavy squeezing of pupil funding, generous building grants and advice to LEAs that they should not have too many schools, an entirely new mantra, never formally announced...

<http://www.smallschools.org.uk/index.htm>

### **Labour criticised over village school closures - *Daily Telegraph***

Hundreds of small village schools face closure as part of a national cost-cutting drive, it has emerged. About 300 face closure in England and Wales amid claims that small schools - some with fewer than 50 pupils - are no longer economical.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;jsessid=33H0EOVGGUUB1QFIQMGSGGAVCBQWIV0?xml=/news/2008/01/28/nschools128.xml>

### **'This will rip the heart out of our community' - *The Observer***

Village schools, Byers vowed, would be safe under a Labour government. Perhaps it should come as little surprise, then, that the people of ... Herefordshire reacted with shock to proposals to strip away or merge 37 small schools in the heart of its countryside.

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/publicservices/story/0,,2247736,00.html>

### **You and Yours - Radio 4**

See Links on [www.schoolsfirst.org.uk](http://www.schoolsfirst.org.uk), click through to BBC and then click Monday for 21st January.

## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **These schools will face the axe - *Ludlow Advertiser***

The names of the schools on the hit list were released by Shropshire County Council 24 hours after Herefordshire backed down from its draft closure programme.

[http://www.ludlowadvertiser.co.uk/news/roundup/display.var.1995981.0.these\\_schools\\_will\\_face\\_the\\_axe.php](http://www.ludlowadvertiser.co.uk/news/roundup/display.var.1995981.0.these_schools_will_face_the_axe.php)

**Pressure piles onto Council over schools -  
*Hereford Times***

CABINET control of Herefordshire Council failed over the schools closure plan - it has been claimed.

[http://www.herefordtimes.com/display.var.1984106.0.pressure\\_piles\\_onto\\_cabinet\\_over\\_schools.php](http://www.herefordtimes.com/display.var.1984106.0.pressure_piles_onto_cabinet_over_schools.php)

**EVENTS**

**\*\*Mordiford, TODAY MONDAY 28  
JANUARY\*\***

Pupils will form a human chain to protect Mordiford School against 'recalled' education plans: 3 pm, Mordiford Primary School.

**Bromyard, Tuesday 29 January**

First meeting at Queen Elizabeth High School at 6.30pm to form an Action Group.

**Michaelchurch Escley, Wednesday 30  
January**

Open meeting at 7.00pm at the Escleyside Hall, Michaelchurch to discuss the way ahead for Michaelchurch Escley Primary School. Further details (directions etc.) from Chris Saville (01981 550666) or Ian Williams (01873 860277).

**INFORMATION**

**Number 10 Downing Street petitions go live!**

A petition against the closures is now available on the Number 10 website at the following address: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/ruralschools/>

A second petition against the merger of Fairfield and Kingstone schools can be found here: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/fairfieldmerge/>

**NEW FACEBOOK GROUP**

**Save Little Dewchurch School**

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8377645546>

**NEW SCHOOL ACTION GROUPS**

**Save Shobdon School - Andy Green**

[SaveShobdonSchool@gmail.com](mailto:SaveShobdonSchool@gmail.com)

[www.shobdonsos.org.uk](http://www.shobdonsos.org.uk)

**Save Clehonger School**

Laura Goode: [gooder74@aol.com](mailto:gooder74@aol.com)

Sue Williams:

[sue-williams@homeoffice39.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:sue-williams@homeoffice39.orangehome.co.uk)

SchoolsFirst.org.uk has been set up to act as a central information point for the many different local campaigns to save Herefordshire schools. If you have any ideas or information, or are planning any events, please email them in!

And finally: please visit the site, log in—and ask your friends to do the same. We need all the support we can get.