

Herefordshire Schools First

Bulletin 7
16 March 2008

Dear friend

Lots to report in this latest SchoolsFirst Bulletin 7:

-- **EXCLUSIVE:** According to recent information from Parliament, **Herefordshire has the lowest number of under-8's able to walk to school of anywhere in the United Kingdom.**

-- The local authority **gives parents another chance** to choose local schools.

-- The consultation process begins for **Wyebridge Sports College to become a City Academy.**

-- Senior government adviser stresses that **affordable housing is key to saving rural schools.**

A little-noticed release of information this week revealed that Herefordshire has the lowest level of walks to school for under-8's of any local authority in the United Kingdom. More than a quarter of local under-8s do not have two or more schools within the statutory 2 miles' walking distance. (The statutory walking distance is absurd in any case, since it is not walking distance at all but calculated as the crow flies - but you get the point.)

Yet it is also true that our schools in county towns and in Hereford City are grossly underfunded in comparative terms. This, and the well-known fact that Herefordshire has the third-lowest funding per pupil in the country, together underline how unfair is the deal we get from central government.

Best,

Jesse

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Please circulate this to friends and fellow supporters. Ask them to sign up on the website. And if you have any ideas for the SchoolsFirst.org.uk site and for the Bulletin, please email me details on jesse4hereford@gmail.com.

NEW PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION SHOWS HEREFORDSHIRE LOWEST IN COUNTRY FOR U-8 WALKS TO SCHOOL

Newly released information from Parliament reveals Herefordshire has only 74% of primary pupils under 8 with two or more schools within walking distance (2 Miles). This is the lowest number for any local authority in the United Kingdom. The spreadsheet is attached, or click the link below.

<http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2008/DEP2008-0653.xls>

NATIONAL NEWS

'Parents have little choice in selecting schools' - *Daily Telegraph*

One in seven parents has little or no choice when picking a school, official figures suggest. They show that 465,000 children live within walking distance of only one secondary, casting further doubt on Government claims that mothers and fathers can easily choose between many different schools.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/03/10/nschool110.xml>

LOCAL NEWS

Chance to change choice of school - *Hereford Times*

Parents with children starting primary school in September have been given another chance to choose where they will start their education.

http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/htnewse ducation/display.var.2098741.0.chance_to_choose_choice_of_school.php

Ball rolling for academy status - *Hereford Times*

Herefordshire Council has agreed to begin the statutory consultation process to change the status of Wyebridge Sports College to an academy in September. The move will bring with it a £22 million capital investment from the government's partnership for schools to rebuild and refurbish the school building.

http://www.herefordtimes.com/display.var.2100726.0.ball_rolling_for_academy_status.php

Affordable homes are key to saving schools - *Hereford Times*

A senior government advisor has said the key to keeping Herefordshire's rural schools and communities alive lies with affordable housing.

http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/htnewse ducation/display.var.2117350.0.affordable_homes_are_key_to_saving_schools.php

Call to keep school driving campaign going - *Hereford Times*

Help is needed to guarantee Herefordshire's young people have the chance to learn about the dangers of driving before they take to the roads. Sponsorship is needed to fund Dying to Drive, a presentation aimed at young people to raise awareness about taking risks on the county's roads before they get behind a wheel themselves.

http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/latest/display.var.2109008.0.call_to_keep_campaign_going.php

Pupils to plan new playground - *Hereford Times*

The playground at a city primary school is set for a £7,000 makeover. St Paul's Primary School in Hampton Dene has been selected.

http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/latest/display.var.2120174.0.pupils_to_plan_new_playground.php

Tots trying to raise money for school - *Hereford Times*

Tots at a Ross-on-Wye nursery have pledged to help a school in the Gambia. Pupils, parents and staff at Oak House Nursery School are raising funds for the Freetown Community pre-school in the Gunjur region of Gambia.

http://www.herefordtimes.com/display.var.2109226.0.tots_trying_to_raise_money_for_school.php
