

Herefordshire Schools First

Bulletin 9
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Dear friend

In this SchoolsFirst Bulletin 9:

- Several schools in Herefordshire **close this week** in a national teachers' strike
- The independent statistician **confirms council statistics on falling school numbers**
- George Salmon, Head of Commissioning and Improvement at Herefordshire Council, **has announced his retirement** in a letter to school heads
- Two **important new schools events**: at the Hay Festival and at Clehonger Village Show

COMMENT

The teachers' strike this week should not be allowed to overshadow other potentially very serious news. The independent statistician has reportedly confirmed the council's original projections of falling school rolls over the next ten years.

Together with the recent letter from the Dept for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) putting further Whitehall pressure on Herefordshire Council to cut schools with "surplus capacity", it is now clear we are in for a long-term fight for our schools. (This letter is now on www.schoolsfirst.org.uk. NB it is a 6 MB download.)

The fight is on two fronts. The first is to preserve local rural schools from closure. But the second is no less important—it is to ensure that schools in the City and in the market towns get fairer treatment than at present, and better teacher-pupil ratios in particular, as well.

The fight will stretch on beyond 2010-11, when the current funding round ends. But it starts now. Only with a fairer long-term settlement from Whitehall, and with clear and settled local priorities, will it be won.

Jesse

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

LOCAL NEWS

Strike will shut schools - Hereford Times

Schools will close across Herefordshire on Thursday when the National Union of Teachers holds a nationwide strike. Aylestone High School and Wyebridge Sports College will close in Hereford, while Weobley High School will also shut its doors. http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/3112075.Strike_will_shut_schools/

Future still not secured for threatened schools - Ledbury Reporter

Schools in Herefordshire are being urged to look to their own futures and plan ahead during the next three years, or face possible closure, merger or cash shortfalls afterwards. An independent report by academic Dr Peter Boden has revealed that Herefordshire Council's predictions of falling pupil numbers over the next ten years were accurate. <http://www.ledburyreporter.co.uk/news/ledburynewsroundup/display.var.2222419.0.future>

[still not secured for threatened schools.php](#) www.clehongerschool.co.uk for more details, plus a list of competitions and application forms.

Approval for council's school pupil numbers - Hereford Times

An independent statistician appointed to look at the county's pupil projections has confirmed that the number of school-aged children in Herefordshire is likely to continue to decline over the next 10 years.

<http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/3109956>
[.Approval for council s school pupil numbers/](#)

Children accepted on schools admissions after data error - Herefordshire Council

Ledbury Primary School has agreed to accept nine children above the school's planned admission number next September following an admissions error, where data used to track distance from households to the school had not included all pedestrian pathways on a new housing development. The school and local authority are working to maintain the school's excellent standards.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 22nd May, 7.30 pm: Major schools event at the Hay Festival--"The Schools Crisis and After"

Herefordshire has just survived an attempt to "rationalise" its schools network. Can village life survive at all in the 21st Century? How vital is education to its future? Chris Barker, head of Fairfield School, hosts a debate to launch a new magazine: *How Gold is Our Valley*. Tickets are free and will be available from www.hayfestival.com from April 30th. All welcome.

Friday 27th June, 5.30 pm: Clehonger Village Show

The show includes a carnival procession at 5.30pm, with samba band and parade through the streets of Clehonger returning to the School for the show to begin at 6.30pm. A variety of stalls, BBQ, Refreshments (including Bar), and the judging of the fancy dress, horticultural, home-baking and craft competitions. See