

February 28th 1990

FRIENDS OF CHURCH LAWFORD SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Thankyou to those of you who attended the meeting at school on Tuesday, sorry it was such short notice.

For those of you who were unable to attend the following points are to be taken up in our continuing battle for the future of the school.

1. The meeting of Schools Sub-Committee on 6th March at Shire Hall is to be lobbied by as many of us as possible. Banners and all! So please if you can spare a few hours next Tuesday morning you can do your bit to help us.
2. A group of school governors and parents are going with our County Councillor-Philip Morris-Jones, to see MP Jim Pawsey on Saturday March 3rd to get his support and help for our school.
3. A letter and an abridged version of the governor's report that the Working Party had on 5th Feb. is to be sent to all the Schools Sub-Committee and the Education Committee, so they are fully aware of what has gone on so far.
4. The national press ie., Sunday Times, and Telegraph are to be contacted with the hope that they may take the issue aboard, especially as education is in the news at the moment.
5. An ex-villager who works at Central TV is to be contacted to see if he will help us. The more media coverage we can get the better.
6. The present Duke of Buccleigh is to be contacted - it was his ancestor who bequeathed the land for the first village school He may be able to add his weight to our struggle.
7. A very important point we wish to stress to all parents with children currently in the school, and due to start this September.. You may feel that because of last weeks decision it's now a for-gone conclusion that the school will close. Please don't. There are still 3 committees, an

appeals procedure and the Secretary of State for Education to get through yet. All of which takes time. At any one of these meetings the recommendation for closure could be thrown out. If the recommendation does get as far as the Sec. of State, Mr. Macgregor, he will need to let his decision be known before September 1990 if the school is to close by September 1991. He needs to give a full academic years notice of closure of the school. So if his decision is later than September 1990 the earliest the school could be closed would be September 1992. Hopefully though he would not need to be making the decision for closure at all! So please don't panic and start to think about moving you child yet - every child that leaves will be a definite nail in the coffin for the school and the village community. What we need to do is promote the school so that more children will come here - not run it down by saying "It's going to close." Please try and be optimistic. I know it's difficult, but we will need all the support we can muster if we are to win and negative thoughts will not help. You can help by coming along and supporting the school at Shire Hall either on March 6th or if necessary on April 3rd for the Education Committee.

Don't let these faceless people destroy our children's opportunities without a fight, at least we should try!

Regards,

P. Doubleday
Chairman Friends of the School.