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HEREFORDSHIRE NOW

The residents' magazine from Herefordshire Council

September 2024

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 Herefordshire
Council

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Back to school safely



Did you know that one of the best ways to keep your child safe is to ensure all their routine vaccinations are up to date?

Vaccines are important ways to stay healthy. They teach your child's immune system to recognise harmful viruses and bacteria. This allows them to respond and resist an illness much quicker than someone unvaccinated. Once we have been immunised, our bodies are better able to fight those diseases if we come into contact with them.

Immunisations can save your child's life. Some diseases continue to cause serious harm to children across the world. Don't let your child be one of them.

Vaccines are very safe and effective. Vaccines are only licensed for children after long and careful development and testing by researchers and doctors.

Vaccines may involve some discomfort and can cause pain, redness or tenderness at the site of injection, but this is minimal compared to the pain, discomfort and trauma of the diseases these vaccines prevent. Fever can be expected after any vaccination.

Giving paracetamol soon after vaccination – and not waiting for a fever to develop – has been shown to reduce the risk of your child having a fever. Remember serious side effects following vaccination are very rare.

Immunisation protects others.

Some babies are too young to be protected by vaccination while other people may not be able to receive certain vaccinations due to severe allergies, or weakened immune systems caused by conditions like leukaemia. To help keep them safe, it is important that you and your children are fully immunised. This not only protects your family but also helps prevent the spread of these diseases to your friends and loved ones.

For further advice visit the NHS website www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/

Dr Cate Carmichael
Director of Public Health for Herefordshire

Your local MPs

Following the General Election in July, the two MPs covering Herefordshire are:

- Hereford and South Herefordshire - **Jesse Norman MP**
Conservative Party
- North Herefordshire - **Ellie Chowns MP**
Green Party



Jesse Norman
- MP



Ellie Chowns
- MP

Tribute to Cllr Bob Matthews

We announced the sad death of Councillor Bob Matthews this summer. Cllr Matthews was one of our longest serving councillors and champion of local democracy. As well as actively representing his constituents as ward member for Credenhill, he was Group Leader for the True Independents, and served on a number of committees. He will be missed.



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You can get in touch via herefordshirenow@herefordshire.gov.uk to tell us what services you'd like to find out more about. To view this magazine online or sign up to receive future editions in your inbox, visit www.herefordshire.gov.uk/council/herefordshire-now

All details correct at time of print. Cover pic: Anna from Hereford

Delivering the best for Herefordshire

Want to know what the council priorities are for the next four years? Then take a look at the Herefordshire Council Plan which sets out what the council will be working on.

The Council Plan sets out how the council will help Herefordshire be a better and more successful county to live and work in. It is focused around four key areas:

People - We will enable residents to realise their potential, to be healthy and benefit from communities that help people to feel safe and supported.

Place - We will protect and enhance our environment and ensure that Herefordshire remains a great place to live. We will support the right housing in the right place and do everything we can to improve the health of our rivers.

Growth - We will create the conditions to deliver sustainable growth across the county. We want to attract inward investment, create more jobs, enable housing development and provide the right infrastructure to keep Herefordshire moving forward.

Transformation - We will be an efficient council that embraces best practice, delivers innovation through technology and demonstrates value for money.

“We want to deliver the best for Herefordshire in everything we do”



Councillor Jonathan Lester, Leader Herefordshire Council, explains: “Our Council Plan was developed



with input from local residents, businesses, community groups and organisations who told us what was important to them and what the council’s priorities should be. It sets out how over the next four years we will work to increase prosperity for all, protect the environment and provide the services that people need.

“We want to be a council that engages with local communities and works with other organisations to make people’s lives better. We want local children to have the best start in life, and for people of all ages to enjoy living and working here.

We know we have challenges due to being a rural county, but we also have very many strengths to build on. We are determined to ensure our wonderful county is the very best it can be.”

You can pick up the Herefordshire Council Plan 2024-2028 at your local library or community hub, or you can find an interactive version on our website at: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/councilplan



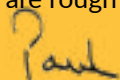
Welcome

Our cover photo captures one of the key signals that autumn is on its way - children returning to school after the long summer break. A good education allows children and young people to develop the knowledge and social skills they need to pave the way to a successful future. You can find out how our services support children to make the most of their opportunities to learn on page 13.

The Herefordshire Council Plan, outlined on this page, sets out where we’ll be concentrating our efforts over the next four years. Our priorities for how the council will help Herefordshire be a better and more successful county to live and work in are based on what local people have told us they would like to see. Hard copies of the plan are available, but it’s well-worth viewing the interactive online version if you’re able.

Involving local people in decision making is a key part of our democratic process. While many of us took part in the general election this summer, it’s at the local parish or town council where many decisions are made that affect the community we live in. We were pleased to meet recently with representatives from parish councils across the county to discuss topics affecting local communities and to build relationships. You can find out more on page 9.

You’ll find more examples of where the council is working in partnership with others throughout this issue, including our Carer strategy on page 7 and our work to support people who are rough sleeping on page 10.


Paul Walker, Chief Executive, Herefordshire Council

Black & White House Conservation

If you've visited Hereford recently you'll have noticed scaffolding around the Black & White House Museum, as the historic building undergoes specialist conservation work.

Currently, some exterior panels and parts of the timber frame are undergoing careful repairs due to wear and tear.

As a Grade I listed building, the Black & White House is noted for its national, architectural and historic significance. Built in 1621, it has a rich history including being a home, a bank and a butcher shop. Since 1929, it has served as a museum, offering a glimpse into Jacobean life with its renowned collection of English oak furniture and unique period pieces.

Last summer, we looked closely at the white panels on the building to understand how it was built and what repairs had been done before. We found that the panels were made differently at different times. Now, we plan to fix the panels using the same materials as before. If the panel is old, we'll



use old materials, and if it's from the 1980s or 1990s, we'll use materials from that time.

We'll repair each panel where it is, keeping as much of the original as possible. If anything needs to be replaced, we'll use the same type of materials.

During the ongoing conservation efforts the museum remains open

to the public. Our visiting hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm, Sunday from 11am to 4pm, and Bank Holidays from 12pm to 3pm. Admission is £3.50 for adults, with free entry for children and students.

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/bwhousemuseum

Museum plans progressing well

4

Plans to renovate the museum and art gallery in Hereford are forging ahead.

Planning permission and listed building consent were granted in the summer, and work is now starting on the final detailed design. Once this is agreed construction can start.

The redevelopment includes fully refurbishing the Grade II listed building and adding a new fifth

floor. The historic façade of the building onto Broad Street will remain untouched.

When it is completed the new museum and art gallery will house purpose-designed museum spaces, galleries, education facilities and a café. Visitors are promised an exciting interactive experience, with amazing collections such as the Herefordshire Hoard and a varied programme of activities, events and exhibitions.



The building will be fully accessible and meet high standards of energy efficiency.

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/developmentsinhereford

Chat with the Curator

We spoke with Lewis Monkley, the new Collections & Engagement Curator at Hereford Museum, about his experience and how he's looking forward to the exciting renovations ahead.

I joined the museum two months ago, bringing experience from Lincoln Cathedral and Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. I always wanted to return to Hereford and this role was a perfect fit.

What do you specialise in?

I specialise in social history and I'm trained as a conservator. The museum's on-site conservation lab helps make repairs cost-effective.

What do you enjoy most in your day-to-day work? I enjoy working with the collections and sharing them with the public.

What are you most looking forward to with the museum's renovations?

I am excited about the new features and collections, especially the Herefordshire Hoard. The rotating temporary exhibitions will keep the museum fresh and engaging.



The new rooftop café excites me, offering stunning views and being one of the highest cafés in Hereford. The expansion, which increases display space fourfold, is also thrilling.

What do you think the public reaction will be? I hope the public will be pleased and find the museum a place they can truly connect with.

Advice for aspiring museum professionals? Volunteering is a great way to gain experience.

What are your future plans? I hope to stay and grow in this role for as long as possible.

"I'm very happy to have started this role. It's exciting to work here with lots of enthusiastic new team members."

City art trail

Visitors to Hereford can now enjoy sixteen contemporary artworks.

The stunning murals and sculptures join the more established pieces that can be found around the city.

A map of the public art trail guides visitors on a tour of the city taking in the best locations alongside enjoying the artworks on display. The two mile tour takes



about one hour to complete at a moderate pace. Along the way more information can be unlocked by scanning the QR codes located next to each artwork.



Find out more about the sculptures and the artists on our website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/sculpturetrail

Autumn wellbeing

As autumn approaches, with shorter days and cooler weather it's important that we do what we can to look after our physical and mental wellbeing.

After an active summer, autumn can be a good time to slow down and focus on things to keep you well over the coming months, including nutritious food, exercise and sleep.

Eat well

As the temperature outside drops it can be tempting to reach for food that's higher in sugar and fat. Traditionally autumn is harvest time and a great season for fresh fruit and vegetables for healthy soups and stews.

Exercise well

While it may seem more attractive to stay inside when the weather turns, it's much better for us to get outdoors and get some exercise.

Getting up and moving, such as taking a brisk walk, can help boost mood and give us energy.

Sleep well

The clock change can affect your sleeping pattern and you may feel more tired or have difficulty sleeping. You may find that you need to alter your routine slightly, and make sure you spend time outdoors to get daylight when you can.



Our Talk Community Directory has lots of information about keeping yourself well.

www.talkcommunity.org/keepingwell

With the change in season you may notice a shift in your mental health. Early signs of poor mental health include feeling anxious, stressed, having a low mood or experiencing trouble sleeping.

The Talk Community Directory has lots of information about looking after your mental health and emotional wellbeing, including five steps that we can all take to manage our feelings.

For more information visit www.talkcommunity.org/mentalhealth

Access to urgent 24 hour mental health support is available to Herefordshire residents by calling freephone 0808 196 9127 or by dialling 111 and selecting option 2.

If your child is feeling low or anxious for a prolonged period of time, or if you have any serious concerns about how your child is feeling or acting, you may want to seek professional help.

As a first step, you may find it helpful to speak to:

- Someone they trust at school or college – for example, a teacher, school nurse, mental health lead or special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO)
- a GP
- a health visitor (for children up to 5 years)

They'll be able to advise you on the support available.

More information about mental health support for children and young people can be found at: www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/



Caring for the carers

We know there are at least 17,000 people in Herefordshire who provide unpaid care.

Unpaid carers make a vital and substantial contribution to the lives of others, yet many don't think of themselves in that role. Instead, they see themselves simply as parents, children, friends or siblings providing essential support to their loved ones.

Despite often putting the needs of others before their own, the role unpaid carers play can go unseen and unrecognised.

It is important that we make sure we are caring for our carers too.

Georgia is an unpaid carer and a founder member of local charity Carers of Herefordshire.

“It wasn't until I got involved with a local carers charity that the realisation hit me that I am an unpaid carer.”

“For most of my adult life I've been an unpaid carer and have not even realised, after all I was just looking after a loved one.

“I currently care for my two autistic, selective mute children and an autistic bi-polar husband, at the same time as managing my own health and wellbeing.

“Twelve months ago, a close friend and I founded the charity Carers of Herefordshire. We provide carers with a safe space to make friends, be part of a community and have respite from their caring role. We've had challenges, but the awards have been amazing.”

Georgia and Carers of Herefordshire have been working with the council, other carers and local organisations on a new Carers Strategy. The strategy aims to bring a better experience for



carers in the county, improve the resources available for carers of all ages and make them easier to access. The strategy focuses on six priority areas:

- Value and recognition
- Young carers
- Technology-Enabled Care (TEC)
- Carer assessments and support
- Staying healthy
- Information and resources

If you're an unpaid carer and would like to find out more about looking after someone in Herefordshire, then please visit our Carers webpage: www.talkcommunity.org/looking-after-someone/

The All-Age Carer Strategy is available on the council website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/carers-strategy

Do more with the NHS App!

- 🔗 Order repeat prescriptions
- 📞 Use NHS 111 online
- 📍 Find NHS services
- 👁️ View your GP health record
- 📅 Book appointments
- ✉️ Get reminders and messages
- And much more...

Need help?
Get support in the app or visit nhs.uk/helpmeapp

NHS App   

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Be Clued Up! on waste

HELPING YOU
SOLVE THE
MYSTERY OF

WASTE

We've launched an exciting new campaign to get you thinking about how you dispose of your waste.



most people will see no immediate change. Your bin day will remain the same – unless we have contacted you directly. Just put your bin out at 6.30am to make sure it's collected.

Check your bin collection day here: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/bincollection

Did you know you can use the councils "My Account" service for real-time updates on your bin collection?

Register to create an online account tailored to you. You will be able to access your bin collection times and more.

Sign up here: my.herefordshire.gov.uk

With eye-catching graphics that you'll see appearing on bin lorries, **Be Clued Up!** promotes awareness of recycling opportunities that you might not yet recognise.

From perfume bottles to plastic tubs, **Be Clued Up!** highlights items that can be recycled, helping you make more environmentally friendly choices.

The campaign also emphasises the importance of reusing items, with local charities and organisations playing a pivotal role.

New bin collection service

The **Be Clued Up!** campaign is starting at the same time as a new bin collection service across the county. While in time there will be new and enhanced services,



We're calling on residents and visitors to take care about how they dispose of their rubbish, and where there's not a bin available nearby, to take litter home and bin it there.

Litter collection and disposal costs the county over £1million every year, with particular problem areas including road verges, laybys and footways, where people often stop to eat or drink and then carelessly discard their litter.

There are around 1,400 litter bins across Herefordshire. We empty all of them regularly but sometimes they can fill up before we get to

them. If you see a full or damaged litter bin please let us know – go online to my.herefordshire.gov.uk/ or call us on 01432 261800

You can also get actively involved by joining a litter picking group. These groups work tirelessly alongside the council in keeping our county clean and beautiful.

Find your local litter picking group on the council website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/littergroup

Find out more at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/bintuition



The council's Community Protection Team is hard at work investigating unlawful waste disposal and fly-tipping. To report fly tipping go online at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/reportingapp/ or call us on 01432 261761.

Winning summer for Wetland



Herefordshire's innovative Luston Wetland has had a winning summer, receiving a number of industry awards and enjoying a special-guest opening by television's Kevin McCloud MBE.

Guest opening

The writer, designer and presenter, who is best known for fronting Channel 4's *Grand Designs*, delivered a keynote speech at the opening of the site, which has been operational for a year, helping to tackle nutrient pollution in the county's rivers.



Kevin McCloud said: "I have always been interested in biodiversity, and growing up in the '60s there was a lot more wildlife on our doorstep than there is now. It's hugely important that we maintain natural habitats that allow greater diversity of insects, birds and plants.

"Something has happened here that is just brilliant, and that is the coming together of people; it is cross-fertilisation of ideas and disciplines. This is a beautiful, glorious exemplar that is a huge success. I thoroughly applaud it."

How does the Luston Wetland work?

High levels of phosphates damage our rivers.

To protect the River Lugg any new building development in the river catchment area must fully offset its phosphate load.

So, Herefordshire Council developed a unique global first in creating the Luston Wetland to capture and remove phosphate, helping to improve the wellbeing of our rivers.

The scheme ensures that more phosphate is removed from the river system than is returned to it through any form of development. This provides a boost to local biodiversity and wildlife, helping to safeguard our natural environment.

The award-winning project has delivered wide benefits for biodiversity and has helped to release the potential of 1,000 homes in North Herefordshire, with 620 having already been granted permission.

More information about Luston Wetland can be found on our website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/luston-wetland

Parish councils

Involving local people in decision making is a key part of our democratic process. It's at the local parish councils where many decisions are made that affect the community we live in.

Parish councils are run by councillors who volunteer their time to make their community a better place. They represent their local community and arrange services to meet local needs and improve quality of life for the people living there.

Herefordshire has 137 democratically elected parish councils. These include five town councils and one city council.

Every parish council in Herefordshire has a Parish Clerk and this is the best person to contact if you want to raise a local issue.

You can find out more about your parish council and how to contact them on the Herefordshire Council website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/parish-councils



We recently met with parish councils to discuss priority areas

Help for homelessness



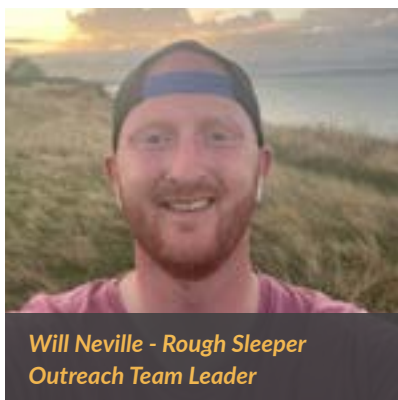
The Rough Sleeper Outreach Team regularly visit Hereford and the market towns.

While nationally the number of people sleeping rough is increasing, Herefordshire is bucking the trend.

A strong network of support for people rough sleeping in Herefordshire is resulting in many people who had been homeless settling into longer-term accommodation.

Of the 80 people who slept in a night shelter last winter, 64 have now moved into accommodation and have not returned to rough sleeping. This is thanks to the commitment and drive of the council, partner organisations and charities who work closely together to provide a wide-range of support.

Will Neville, Rough Sleeper Outreach Team Leader explains:



Will Neville - Rough Sleeper Outreach Team Leader

“There are many reasons why someone may find themselves homeless and rough sleeping - a relationship breakdown, job loss, eviction, mental health issues - the situation is usually complex. We work with a range of local partners and the person so they receive the support they need, often in multiple areas of their life, to prevent them from rough

sleeping and help them into accommodation.

“We would like to see an end to rough sleeping in the county. Our outreach teams are in Hereford and the market towns, not just when we have a referrals but regularly, speaking with people who are rough sleeping, visiting food banks and other community spaces. We would ideally like to identify people who may be at risk of homelessness before they hit crisis point and end up rough sleeping, and we work closely with other services so that this happens wherever possible. This work makes a huge difference.”



Find out more on: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/homeless



Streetlink is a website that anybody can use to report someone who is sleeping rough to support services.

In Herefordshire, reports that come through Streetlink are sent directly to the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team who can then take steps to ensure that suitable

support is offered to that person within a matter of days.

When making a Streetlink referral, please include as much information as possible - as this gives the team the best chance of locating the person and offering support.

www.thestreetlink.org.uk/



New scheme to tackle flooding

The county's first Community Flood Signage Scheme has been established in Orleton.

The scheme enables trained Flood Warden Volunteers to close small stretches of highway to prevent vehicles driving through flood water, reducing the risk of accidents, breakdowns and damage to property caused by bow waves.

Initially being run as a trial scheme, it is hoped that this can be rolled out to other communities in Herefordshire.



If you would like to become a Community Flood Signage Volunteer, please email floodrisk@herefordshire.gov.uk to express your interest.

Don't get caught out by flooding

Flooding can occur anywhere, so it's important to do what you can to prepare and to limit the impact of flooding on your property:

Keep ditches and drains clear
Ditches and drains need to be maintained to reduce the risk of flooding.

If you're the owner of land or property that adjoins a watercourse, such as brook, stream or a roadside ditch, you are what is known as the riparian owner and are responsible for its maintenance. Where a watercourse is sited between two or more properties, each owner is equally responsible.

Develop a personal flood plan
The Environment Agency have created a personal flood plan which you can download, print and fill in. The plan includes a list of things you should do and provides space for you to note down important contact details such as your utility companies and insurance. (www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan)

Stock up on sandbags or flood barriers

If you think your property may be at risk, get sandbags or flood barriers in advance. If you wish to keep a stock of sandbags, your local builders merchants should be able to help you.

The Environment Agency publishes a guide on how best to use them. (www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/)

Flood alerts
Monitor flood warnings and alerts for your area. Use the government's flood warning service. (www.check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/).

Sign up to get Flood warnings from gov.uk by phone, email or text message. (www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings).

You can get more advice from the National Flood Forum on how to protect yourself and your property if a flood happens. (www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-flooding/preparing/checklist-action-plan/)

The most important thing is that you and your family remain safe. If you or somebody else is in immediate danger and need rescuing, dial 999 immediately.

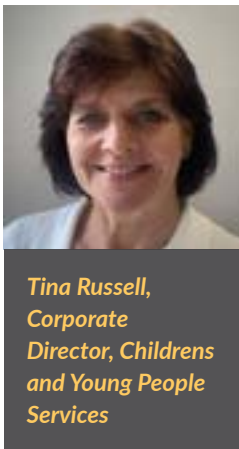
For advice during a flood, see the government's Get help during a flood information. www.gov.uk/help-during-flood

Or visit our website: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/prepare-flooding





We want every child in our county to have the best life experience throughout childhood, so we are committed to working with our children, young people and their families to provide the support, care and protection they need.



*Tina Russell,
Corporate
Director, Childrens
and Young People
Services*

“Working with us you’ll experience personal growth and continuous professional support, guidance, learning and challenge – we can help you take your career further than you ever thought.

“If you are committed to making a difference to the lives of children, young people and families, take your first step today and see where a career with Herefordshire Council can take you.”



Visit www.spiritofherefordshire.com/children-young-people/



Matt’s Story

Matt graduated with a Sound Technology degree, but his plans of working in live music changed when he discovered a passion for working with children.



Matt applied to the government’s ‘Step up to Social Work’ programme and was delighted when he was offered a place with Herefordshire Children’s Services for the 15 months accelerated course. He thoroughly enjoyed his time with us and decided to sign up for the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (AYSE) programme.

Matt is now a fully qualified social worker. He says: “Working with children who have disabilities or additional needs is my passion, and my work allows me to make life better for people living in our local communities. This is really important to me, and I always want to do meaningful work to support local families who have a child, or children, who are inherently vulnerable and who deserve equal opportunities.

“Herefordshire is a beautiful part of the world and when the sun is shining you can’t beat it. There’s always something interesting to do and new places to discover.”

Jeanadelle’s Story

Jeanadelle grew up surrounded by children. Her passion for making a difference in their lives became a driving force in her choice of career.



She loves working with children and is committed to being a stepping stone for them, knowing that the positive influence she provides may be remembered and valued as they grow older.

Jeanadelle cherishes the opportunity to support families and witness the positive changes she helps bring about.

Jeanadelle says: “I love seeing the seeing the views on my commute from Birmingham. There’s less traffic congestion, leading to shorter and less stressful journeys to and from work and you get to see green fields and cows, which you don’t see in Birmingham.

“If you’re considering joining Herefordshire, give it a try. Managers here give you time to absorb and progress. They want to grow their own staff and there’s always opportunities to progress and try something new.”

Meet Herefordshire's school attendance team



Danie, Jo and Sam, Herefordshire Council's School Attendance Team

Since the Covid-19 pandemic we've seen an increase in absences in our county's schools and a higher proportion of pupils are missing out on their schooling.

Herefordshire's Attendance and Engagement Team work with schools and partner organisations to promote good pupil attendance and punctuality and to help tackle persistent absences.

Danie, Herefordshire Council's Attendance and Engagement in Education Officer, said:

"We're concerned that too many children and young people in Herefordshire are currently missing school and this has a detrimental effect on their education. Students that take occasional days or weeks off school miss out on huge chunks of essential knowledge. Trying to catch up can be really difficult and leads to fractured learning.

"Being in school has a huge range of benefits and is important to a child's development as it prepares young people for a successful transition to adulthood. It also promotes positive relationships, which is an important factor for good mental health and wellbeing. Evidence suggests that students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A level results.

"As we embark on a new academic year, we know that attendance in the first week of school in September sets up attendance throughout the year. Children who miss one of the first few days of the new term for unauthorised reasons are much more likely to miss long periods of their schooling than their peers who attended those first few days.

"We completely understand that occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable, but if a child is regularly missing school and showing signs that they don't want to go, we urge parents to get in touch with their school and seek support as soon as possible.

"Every school has a designated member of staff that can help you and your child to remove any barriers to attendance and support them to ensure they make the most of their opportunities to learn.

"We believe that all children and young people should have access to a full-time, high-quality education that allows them to have the best start in life and paves the way to a successful future."



To read more about how to encourage good school attendance, visit www.herefordshire.gov.uk/schoolattendance

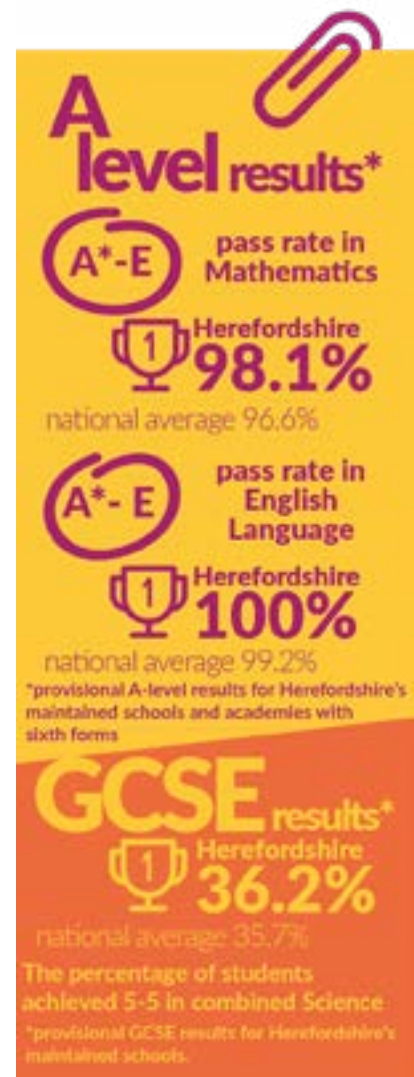
Sign up for school alerts

Did you know you can sign up to school alerts on our website?

You can receive information on school closures direct to your email as soon as it happens. www.herefordshire.gov.uk/schoolalerts

Or you can visit our website: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures

You can also download the Herefordshire term dates calendar direct to your laptop or smartphone calendar. www.herefordshire.gov.uk/termdates



Free support for parents and carers of a SEND child

Are you a parent of a child with special educational needs and/or a disability? Are you aware that there is a wide range of support and advice that you can access for free?



SENDIASS is a local independent service offering confidential and legally-based information and advice including support around the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process. They also offer free training and information sessions for parents.

To find out more visit: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sendias

The Parent Carer Voice Herefordshire (PCVH) is a local group of parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Their aim is to ensure that the voices of parents and carers are heard and are used to help shape the delivery of services for children with SEND.

More information can be found on their visit PCVH website www.pcvh.co.uk

IPSEA is a national charity who run a free helpline and have a range of legal guides and factsheets available for parent and carers. For details visit their website www.ipsea.org.uk

Funded early years education

More children than ever are eligible for funded early years education in Herefordshire

Don't forget to register with you preferred childcare provider to secure your child's place! You can find out more about Early Education Funding (EEF) and claiming towards childcare costs on our website. www.herefordshire.gov.uk/eef

For information about local support and services for children and young people with SEND, visit the Herefordshire Local Offer webpage www.herefordshire.gov.uk/localofferinfo

Wrap-around childcare

We believe that no-one should have to choose between having a career and having a family, so we've increased our childcare availability across the county.

By extending the hours we're providing better access to childcare for working parents and those looking to return to work.

Contact your child's school or nursery for more information.



For advice on the help available towards childcare costs and eligibility, visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

Your child needs you!

Claim your funded hours towards childcare costs

Find out your entitlement



Childcare Choices Herefordshire Council



Join the Street Tag movement

Ask your school to sign up to Street Tag, so they can be in with a chance of winning some fantastic prizes.

Co-funded by Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Street Tag is a free family-friendly smartphone app* that records users physical activity and encourages to explore their local area by collecting virtual tags located across Herefordshire.

There's no cost to the schools taking part in Street Tag and by signing up they'll be able to compete on the Herefordshire schools leaderboard.

By being more active you can help to move your school up the leaderboard and have a better

chance of winning prizes for the school. You can gain points for your school every time you go for a walk, run and cycle.

Up to 250 people can represent a school team, including, students, parents and carers, grandparents and school staff.

Tags will be available from 3 October until 25 November 2024, and could be placed anywhere in Herefordshire. Look for them around schools, parks, footpaths and bridleways, leisure centres and other public spaces.

To find out more about Street Tag visit our website: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/street-tag



***Fobs are available for Herefordshire school students that don't have access to a smartphone.**

Herefordshire children enjoy a summer of fun activities

More than a thousand children and young people from across the county enjoyed free activities during the summer holidays.

The Department for Education funded holiday activities and food (HAF) programme provided children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals with the opportunity to try out lots of exciting free experiences with around 41 local activity providers.

Children and young people were able to try out a wide range of exciting activities from den building, tennis, dance, arts, crafts, football, drama and farm visits.

Every child that attended also received free nutritious food at the session.



Details of the activities programme for the Christmas holidays will be available on the Talk Community Directory soon www.talkcommunity.org/holidayactivities

Better roads thanks to £multi-million investment



The condition of roads in the county is being improved thanks to £38million investment in 2024/25 - which is an increase of nearly £12million when compared with last year.

This additional funding is allowing us to target investment at the roads that need it most, through resurfacing and surface dressing schemes.

Resurfacing is where the existing road surface is completely removed, work is carried out to the structural layers of the road and then a new road surface is laid. This can extend the life of the road for 15-25 years. However, it is more costly than surface dressing.

In 2024/25, the council is investing £8million into resurfacing, including £5million for

A and B roads and £3million for C and unclassified roads.

Surface dressing involves applying a layer of bitumen binder to the existing road surface followed by a layer of stone chippings. The chippings are then rolled into the binder to create a durable and skid-resistant surface. This helps to prevent potholes.

It is a quick process and usually only takes a few hours to complete, meaning we can sometimes treat several roads in one day.

We are investing £3.66 million this year in surface dressing across the county's C and unclassified road network.

More information, including the resurfacing and surface dressing, can be found on our website.



Visit www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roadinvestment

Help to make your home energy efficient

If you are thinking of making improvements to help save energy, but aren't sure what is the best measure to take then contact Home Energy Savers.

It is available to you if your property is in Herefordshire and your household income is above £36,000 per annum, and/or with disposable income available to spend on your home.

You will receive a free in-home assessment, survey, and installations provided by council

partners Evolve Home Energy Solutions. A plan will be tailored to help you understand how your property loses heat and wastes energy. This plan sets out appropriate options for measures suited to your household.

The council has funding available to support households who decide to take up some of the measures suggested in their report.

For more information visit: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/home-energy-savers

This project is part-funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

For details of other schemes available please see our www.herefordshire.gov.uk/home-energy



If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please email: herefordshiren@herefordshire.gov.uk