

# == FLOOD ==

## Soaked School Stalls Start

The rainy days of June and July are still causing trouble. One school in the area is having to remain closed after the long summer holidays as it is still being cleared up after the floods.

Yesterday morning, angry parents gathered outside Beldon Primary School demanding to see the headteacher, Mr Brian Williams. The school should have reopened for the autumn term but parents and children arriving at school were met with a sign saying that the school was closed 'until further notice'.

"This is ridiculous," shouted one mum, Mel Brayley. "I got my kids dressed in their new uniform, we turned up at school and the teachers aren't even here."

"Our kids have been off all summer and we need to get them back to school," said harassed mother Martha Quidgly.

"Haven't they had a long enough holiday already?" asked furious father Dave Johnson. "I blame the head teacher. He can't seem to get anything organised. Surely it can't take two months to get a few soggy carpets taken out and replaced?"

Eventually Mr Williams did come out of the building to face the parents. He read out a short statement. "Obviously we are doing all we can to get things back to



normal," he said. "At the moment it is too dangerous for children and staff to work in the school. The floods in late July swept through the buildings and in some places reached a depth of over a metre. It's not just damage to carpets but also to furniture, books and equipment. Even more seriously, however, the flood waters got into the electrical sockets and we are having all the electrics checked before we can allow children back into the buildings."

Mr Williams did not wait to answer any of the parents' questions and this enraged them further.

"It's not good enough," insisted Dave Johnson. "How long does it take to sort out a few electrics? Surely the County Council could get something done even if Brian Williams can't."

We contacted the Council but no one was available for comment. The school remains closed.