

Plea for a pupil to 'save' village school

A REMOTE community has pleaded for a family to move to the area to spare its primary school from losing half of its teaching staff.

Five pupils of Kinlochbervie Primary School in the north-west Sutherland fishing village will transfer to the local secondary school in August.

The move means the primary school's roll will drop to 19 and the staff would be cut to one teacher unless another pupil enrolls.

Headteacher Jill Bruce admitted that teaching all pupils aged six to 11 in one class was 'far from ideal'.

She added: 'We only need one pupil. We are sure there are families elsewhere who would love their children to have these advantages - a safe environment where everyone knows everyone, the freedom.'

Perks for the lucky pupil would

By **Alan Carson**

include one-to-one attention, while PE lessons would involve kayaking on the nearby loch.

Half of the present pupils are from fishing families while others are children of the local policeman, teachers, oil workers and tradesmen.

Rebecca Ridgway ferries her children Molly, ten, and eight-year-old Hughie to school by motorboat.

Miss Ridgway, who runs an adventure centre in the area, said: 'I always liked the idea of having my family here because it was such a great place to grow up, building dens and gathering sea urchins from the shore.'

'With just one more child, all the children would really benefit.'