

# Sheep enrol at French school as students

8 May 2019 (adapted)

- 1 **A farmer has enrolled 15 sheep at a French primary school to boost pupil numbers after authorities announced plans to close a class.**

Jules Ferry school in Crêts-en-Belledonne, a village in

- 5 the Alps northeast of Grenoble, had seen its student

numbers fall from 266 to 261. But in an act of defiance shepherd Michel Girerd decided to symbolically register some of his ewes. Among the new pupils are Baa-bete, Dolly and Shaun.

Mr Girerd appeared with 50 of his ewes outside the school for a special ceremony attended by some 200 teachers, pupils and officials.

- 10 Mayor Jean-Louis Maret was presented with their birth certificates during the event. He questioned the "annoying threshold logic" which could prompt such a class closure.

"Now we shouldn't have any closures," parent Gaëlle Laval said, who added that the education system was "not concerned with the arguments on the ground, just numbers".

Children at the event held signs reading, "We are not sheep".



- 1) What's the article about?

- 2) Suggest translations for the underlined words.

to enrol =

a herder =

a ewe =

to attend =

threshold =

to prompt =

- 3) Explain what **threshold logic** is.

- 4) Explain what the shepherd has done and why.

- 5) In your opinion, what is the role of the mayor?

- 6) In your opinion, what do the parents think about the event?

- 7) Do you think the shepherd has found the solution to the problem?