



Christ Church Primary School



Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us

17th February 2023

Re: **Planned strike action at Christ Church Primary School on Tuesday 28th February 2023.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. You may have seen coverage of this in the news, and I need to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain the dispute and to also outline the school's plans during the strike.

What is the dispute which has led to the strike about?

As you may know, over the summer the Department for Education agreed to an unfunded 5% pay rise for teachers. Teaching unions across England and Scotland, including NEU are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living.

When is the strike action?

There are two further national and one regional day strikes planned. The remaining strike days that are likely to affect schools in this area are:

- Tuesday 28 February 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

This means that those teachers involved in the action will not teach their class or undertake any other duties on a strike day.

Following information from staff I have considered the impact that the action will have on our school for **Tuesday 28th February**; this may differ on other days so I will keep you updated. In planning, we have needed to consider the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

What will happen at the school during the strike?

- School will be **closed** to pupils in classes 7, 9, 11, 13 & 14 on Tuesday 28th February.
- If you have a child in any of these classes who is vulnerable and would be significantly impacted we can provide limited pastoral support so that they may attend school on this day. Parents should contact the school office by email to request this provision and we will do our best to support.
- Our KS1 Nurture provision will not be able to run in the usual format and children will be supported by familiar Nurture staff in their cohort classes.
- All other pupils will be in school as normal.
- If your child attends a class that is closing and they are entitled to Free School Meals, we can provide a packed lunch for them; please contact the school office by email to request this.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any



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teacher would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the days that they are on strike.

We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances however this has been a changing situation and as such the risk assessment has had to be carefully reviewed.

I also want to reassure you that every child's education is important to every member of staff at Christ Church. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can support children to the best of our abilities.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Donelan
Headteacher

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