



Ashford Park Primary School

'Inspiring a love for lifelong learning'

23rd January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you will be aware from the media that the National Education Union (NEU) has announced some proposed strike days for our area on the following days:

- Wednesday 1st February (nationally)
- Thursday 2nd March (London and the South West and the South East of England)
- Wednesday 15th March (nationally)
- Thursday 16th March (nationally)

I am writing initially to give you as much notice as possible so that you can make arrangements if your child's class is not open to them on the proposed strike days. Our main priority at this time is to consider the safe supervision of children given the anticipated significantly reduced teacher staffing levels in our school and, as such, we are currently conducting a risk assessment.

It is important to differentiate between the arrangements in place for school closure/opening during the Covid pandemic and these proposed strike days. Unlike the Covid lockdowns, where other staff covered classes, we may not be in the position to cover the class of a teacher who has chosen to strike, meaning there will be no school for that class on that given day or any home learning set.

Teachers are not compelled to inform their Headteacher on their plans to strike. It is therefore impossible to know until the morning of each strike day whether the class will have a teacher. As such it is vital that parents plan for alternative childcare. It could be the case, that should a class teacher not attend school, a Parent Mail will be sent to parents as soon as possible on the day of the strike to collect your child.

My hope is that I will be able to give you some clarity about which classes will be open as soon as possible, at least for the proposed first strike day on Wednesday 1st February. Schools locally will have varying numbers of NEU members; therefore, the impact of the potential strike day will differ from school to school.

Although the council and schools have received formal notification by the trade union of their intention to strike, there is also the possibility that through ongoing negotiations the strike may not take place.

If the strikes go ahead, I appreciate that this will cause disruption to our families. I will send more information to you once I have discussed the potential implications of these proposed strikes with NEU members at Ashford Park Primary School.

Kind regards

Mrs Sarah Tarrant (HT)

Mrs Margaret Bird (Chair of Governors)

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Tarrant
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