

10th March 2023

Dear Parent/Carers

Re: Planned Strike Action at Allenbourn Middle School on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023

I write further to our previous correspondence to update you on the progress of our contingency planning during the forthcoming strike action in schools.

Background

We have had confirmation from the NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike which will take place on **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023**.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay and funding for schools. We 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 a 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. Teachers are also taking this action as they believe that funding is currently not sufficient to enable schools to fund pay increases. The school will make any communication directly from the NEU available to parents available through our school website.

What will happen at the school during the strike?

- The school will be **closed** to all pupils with the exception of those who fall into one of the following vulnerable pupil categories: in receipt of Pupil Premium, have an Educational Health Care Plan, Child in Care or a Child who is supported through a Child Protection or Child in Need Plan.
- Parents of pupils who are deemed vulnerable will be contacted via Parent Mail to enable them to register their child. Parents are asked to confirm that their child will be attending school by **9:00am on Tuesday 14th March 2023**. The offer is for pupils to attend school so that they can use school facilities to engage with online learning. Pupils who are able to access remote learning from home may choose to do this instead of attending the school site.

- Pupils attending school should report to the main school office upon arrival. They will be required to wear their full school uniform and will be supervised during the day whilst completing online learning in mixed year group classes.
- Teaching staff who are available will be teaching live online lessons. Links to the lessons will be on Google classroom at 8.40am on the day of the strike. Pupils should attend these online lessons.
- Staff who are on strike are not expected to set remote learning. During these teaching periods, pupils are expected to complete tasks set on Tassomai, Hegarty Maths or other similar platforms. They should also spend part of their day reading (equivalent to 1 hour). All work will be communicated via the Google classroom platform.
- There will be no before or after school provision on this date.
- Pupils eligible for free school meals will have their meal provided in the normal way and the school kitchen will be open. Pupils are most welcome to bring a packed lunch.

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all pupils and parents that as a Trust we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line.

We have endeavoured to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances. We appreciate that any closure / partial closure may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to all staff at Allenbourn Middle School. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Mark Legge
Headteacher



Allenbourn Middle School Colehill First School Emmanuel Middle School Hayeswood First School Hillside First School Lockyer's Middle School
Merley First School Queen Elizabeth's School St John's First School St Michael's Middle School Verwood First School Witchampton First School
Pamphill First School

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