

 **Westdale Junior School**  
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**Head of School**  
Ruth Kyle *BA (Hons), PGCE, MCCT*  
**Executive Head Teacher**  
Celia Smith *BEd (Hons)*



Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Re: Planned strike action at Westdale Junior School on Wednesday 01 February 2023.**

We write further to our previous correspondence to update you on the predicted impact of the forthcoming strike action in schools.

### **Background**

As you are aware, members of the NEU union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike which will take place on Wednesday 01 February 2023.

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 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.

### **What will happen at the school during the strike?**

As it stands at the moment, with the information we have been given from staff, we are anticipating that **Westdale Junior School will be fully open to all children.** However, you do need to be aware that union members are not obligated to inform us of their intention to strike ahead of the day. Should members decide they want to strike, we will inform you of the impact of this, as soon as we know.

In the case of strike action by our staff, 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 students 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 tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances. We appreciate that any closure / partial closure during this or subsequent strikes may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to *all* staff at Westdale Junior School.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Kyle

**Head of School**