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22nd January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for the slightly delayed newsletter this week. What a chilly time we're having at the moment! Many thanks for your support with ensuring that children are coming with warm coats, jumpers and gloves. Despite the cold, it has been a beautiful, sunny week and one during which we have still managed to enjoy playtimes outside.

Attendance

A number of you may have received letters regarding your child's attendance this week. At Westdale Junior School, we are committed to working with families to support improvements in attendance levels. I have spoken before about the inextricable link between attendance and academic progress and social development and it is an area we are focussing on this term and beyond. We are, of course, sympathetic to individual circumstances and look forward to speaking to families about what we can do to help.

Upcoming Strikes

You have no doubt heard in the news that the largest teaching union, NEU, have balloted their members and voted in favour of strike action. We are in the process of ascertaining the extent to which our school will be affected by this and are meeting with other schools from across our trust to plan our response. We will be in contact as soon as we know which classes may be affected by the industrial action. As it stands at the moment, the proposed dates of strike action are as follows:

01 February 2023 – National strike
01 March 2023 – Regional strike
15 and 16th March – National strike

Coffee Morning and Parent Partnership Meetings

Tuesday 24th January 2023 will see our 3rd Parent Partnership meetings. The morning meeting will be held at 9.10am, in the dining room alongside a coffee morning in aid of Young Lives Vs Cancer which is the charity nominated by our Pupil Parliament. I will also be holding an evening meeting between 5pm and 5.45pm. Many thanks to those of you who have completed my survey about accessing an online meeting. This was an option that many of you have said would be appreciated. I am in the process of talking to our tech team to work out the best way to facilitate this. It is unlikely that this will be up and running by this week but I will be in touch about this in due course.

After-School Clubs

Despite the fact that it seems like only five minute ago since we returned from the Christmas break, it is actually only 3 weeks until the half term break! The final day of this term is 10th February 2023. This term, the children have had the chance to take part in homework club, colouring club and newspaper club. Keep your eyes on emails about the upcoming opportunities. Sign up forms will be sent out soon.

Have wonderful rest of Sunday and I look forward to seeing you next week!

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Kyle
Head of School