



Brighstone C.E. Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Monday 13th March 2023

NEU Strike Action

Dear parents/carers,

Further to my letter dated 10th March 2023 about the forthcoming days of strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), I am now in a position to let you know the arrangements for this week (Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March), following updated information.

It is incumbent upon me to consider the impact that industrial action will have on the safe operation of the school. One of the key issues is to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike. As the law states that union members do not have to notify their employer if they are intending to strike, we have to plan for all eventualities up to and on the day itself. To determine whether our school can remain fully or partially open, a risk assessment has been conducted. This considers the impact that the action will have on 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.

Following updated information, I and the Chair of Governors have had to make the difficult decision to partially close the school for different year groups due to possible limited staff capacity in school. The classes on the following days will be closed:

- Wednesday 15th March: Reception class and Honey Bee class (Y3/4)
- Thursday 16th March: Reception class

This may be subject to change, and I will keep you informed as soon as possible if this is the case.

At the time of writing, the children in Y1/2 and Y5/6 are expected to attend as normal, and lunchtime arrangements will continue as usual for these children. School transport will continue to operate as usual.

Clearly, this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption, especially in terms of alternative childcare arrangements. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Members of the NEU will have thought long and hard about their decision to strike or not and will also lose pay for the days that they are on strike.

I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Brighstone CE Aided Primary School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

If you are unable to make alternative arrangements for your children, please email the school office at office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk. We will endeavour to help if we are able to.

If the situation changes at any point, I will let you know as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Lennon
Headteacher

Steve Fairclough
Chair of Governors