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27th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will already be aware that teachers in the NEU (National Education Union) have voted by a substantial margin for strike action and the first strike day will be Wednesday 1st February. A series of further strikes are planned for Tuesday 28th February, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March.

The teachers and support staff at Rolls Crescent are in a number of different unions and currently the only union whose members voted for strike action is the NEU.

This is a challenging time for everyone concerned: parents and carers, children and the colleagues who have taken a difficult decision, whichever way they voted. We respect that each individual is fully entitled to make their own decision and would like to make clear that by deciding to strike, teachers are not showing a lack of commitment to their work and duty, but making a stand about pay and conditions on a national level.

Their decision to strike isn't about teaching at Rolls Crescent and is not action against the school, it is about a national wider picture with concerns over teachers' pay and working conditions and the funding levels for schools. Their dispute is with the government and is in relation to 'the failure by the Secretary of State in England and the employers in Wales to ensure enough money is available to pay a fully-funded increase in pay for teachers, which at least matches inflation, and which begins to restore lost pay'.

Members of unions other than the NEU and non-striking NEU members have been instructed by their unions not to take on striking teachers' commitments. These unions include NASUWT, UNISON and NAHT. Therefore, classes will not be taught by other colleagues in school or by supply teachers.

To this effect there will be a number of classes **closed** to children on Wednesday 1st February: **Nursery, Reception 1, Reception 2, Class 1A, Class 1B, Class 2A, Class 2B, Class 3A, Class 4B, Class 5B, Class 6A and Class 6B**. Pupils in these classes **will not be able to attend school**. If there are any changes to this information, we will let you know by 8.30am by text message on Wednesday 1st February.

We know that a number of classes will be **open** on Wednesday 1st February: **Class 3B, Class 4A and Class 5A**. Pupils in these classes **should attend school as normal**. Once again, if there are any changes to this information, we will let you know by 8.30am by text message on Wednesday 1st February

We must make it clear however, that these plans may change nearer the time, or even on the day of the strike.

There is a full risk assessment in place which looks at contingency plans for the school in an emergency.

All children who normally receive a **benefits-related Free School Meal** who are not able to be in school on 1 February will be able to **collect a free school meal from school**. If this applies to you, we will contact you by text and you can book a packed lunch at the school office and collect it from 11.30am on Wednesday 1st February.



If your child's class is closed, you may wish to access some remote learning for them (although this is not essential). If you would like to access some learning at home, we would suggest using the Oak Academy online lessons at:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/>

We appreciate that class closures are disruptive. As we have recently seen in many other professions striking is by its very nature, designed to be disruptive. However, we hope you will join us in supporting our colleagues.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Turner & J Reynolds'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

H Turner and J Reynolds

Head of School