



Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Inman
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Thursday 9th March 2023

Planned NEU Teacher Strike Action – Arrangements for 15th & 16th March 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you for your patience on this matter while I completed my risk assessments ahead of the forthcoming strike action by National Education Union (NEU) staff. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over pay and school funding and not because of any issues at our school.

As mentioned in the previous letters, and in common with any employee involved in a legal dispute, staff are not obliged to inform me ahead of next Wednesday/Thursday if they intend to strike.

I have been informed that some staff do intend to strike next week as they feel they need to support their union and have not taken action in the previous strike days. However, they are also aware of the impact this will have on children's education.

School Leaders need to make decisions based on their risk assessments, levels of need of children within a year group and known staffing levels (non-striking unions and support staff) with the overwhelming consideration being the safe operation of the school for children and staff.

As such, the school leaders have decided that:

The school will be OPEN as normal on Wednesday 15th March to all children.

However, on **Thursday 16th March:**

- **the school will be open to our Year 6 children ONLY** as they are a priority exam year as outlined in the principles set out in the [emergency planning and response guidance](#). Year 6 children need to be in school at normal time. As the school is open to them, our normal attendance policy applies and children are expected to be in school unless unwell. Our kitchen will stay open for those children who are in school to have a lunch.



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- **The school will be CLOSED to Years 3, 4 and 5 children** as we will not have enough staff to safely accommodate them. Online learning via the Oak Academy website will be available for the children to complete during the day:
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>
- Children who are due to have external agencies (NHPSS) working with them on the day will be contacted by Mrs Willans to discuss arrangements for the 16th March.

Government guidance allows schools to prioritise exam year groups (Yr6 for us) and vulnerable and critical worker children. When we have looked at our school demographics, over 1/3 of our children would be classed as vulnerable or critical worker children. Given our current known staffing numbers, we do not have enough capacity to be able to offer places for all of our vulnerable or critical worker children on this strike day as members of our non-striking staff also have children at home as their schools have closed.

If your child is not in school and is entitled to a Free School Meal and you would like a school packed lunch (sandwich option) for them, **please email admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk with the reference FSM LUNCH by 10.30am Monday 13th March** so the kitchen has an idea of numbers. Packed lunches can be collected from school on 16th March between 11-12pm at the Office. If your child is not in school but normally has a school dinner, please remember to cancel any meals booked for Thursday 16th March.

Please note that the arrangements for 16th March as outlined above are fluid and changeable. If there are any changes, we shall inform parents via ParentMail and Marvellous Me on the day, so please do keep checking as this is our primary form of communications with parents.

I continue to ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect; we remain, as always, committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarah Inman
Headteacher