

AVJS Bulletin: 27th January 2023

The big topic of conversation this week is obviously the upcoming industrial action that is taking place next Wednesday. This is not something that anyone in our profession enjoys and we understand that it causes a headache for our parents. However, it is something that is beyond the control of the school and is a dispute between the unions and the Department for Education. The NEU is the largest education union and therefore, the action proposed by them is going to affect a huge number of schools across the country. The following excerpt is from the NEU website and details why they are calling for strike action:

Teachers are facing the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation. Members tell us they are struggling with energy costs and childcare and many are now worried about mortgage payments and how they will cover the rent. While bills are soaring the only thing that seems to be going down is the value of our pay.

The pay offer of 5% for most teachers in September 2022 was well below the soaring level of inflation – so this was a real term pay cut of over 7% in 2022 alone to add to the already major real terms pay cuts between 2010 and 2021. To add insult to injury the pay offer is not fully funded. Teachers have lost 23% in real terms against RPI inflation since 2010 and educators are leaving the profession in their droves.

One in eight teachers leaves the profession after just a year in the classroom – one in three within five. Parents know that teacher shortages are harming education and poor pay is driving teachers away from their children's schools. Our polling shows they support teachers acting to protect education standards.

The Government has failed to provide funding to pay teachers properly for the vital work they do despite all the evidence that teachers

are the bedrock upon which good education is built.

We have provided strong evidence that a fully funded above-inflation pay increase is needed but this Government has not listened. Now, we need to act together, as a profession, to make it see sense.

<https://neu.org.uk/pay/pay-campaign>

We have completed a risk assessment in school to determine whether it is safe for the school to remain open to all pupils during the strike. The outcome of this is that it is not which is why we are closing certain classes. Some of you have already asked some good questions regarding our decision and I hope to address these in the Q&A section below:

- **Why don't you use supply teachers?**
We use a very reputable supply agency for cover when staff are sick or on training courses. Their staff are all highly trained, fully qualified and have had thorough checks made to ensure their suitability for working with children. In the past, we have tried staff from other agencies but they have not been the quality that our children deserve. Our agency has told us that they are not able to provide staff to cover striking teachers.
- **Why don't you use your TAs cover the classes when teachers are striking?**
We have an excellent, professional and highly capable team of TAs at Arno Vale. Generally, they are used to support our more vulnerable children or children with special educational needs. If we used them to cover the classes, it would leave those children who really need them unsupported which could result in issues for them and the other children in their classes. Before Christmas, we had hoped to recruit another TA to strengthen the support we give the children but our



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finances would not allow. This is because the annual pay award that staff received was not fully funded by the government and most of it had to come from the school budget.

- **Why aren't you providing remote learning for those children who will not be able to come into school?** Striking teachers are not obliged to provide any learning for the children. It would then be up to the other staff in school to do this. This would be an unfair additional task for them to do as those teachers who will be in school will have their classes to teach and the other responsibilities that go alongside this.
- **I have heard that you should still provide places in school for the vulnerable children or those of parents who are key workers, are you going to be able to do that?** It is something we would like to do but is not statutory and is dependent upon the risk assessment. If the risk assessment shows that it would not be safe to have those children in school, then we do not have to do it. There are still some members of teaching staff who have not decided upon the action they are taking on Wednesday. Once I know for certain, I can update the risk assessment and see if we are able to offer places to those children.
- **There may be other strikes later this term. Can you make a rota so it is not the same children who will not be able to come into school?** I understand that if your child's class is affected again, that this may not feel fair. However, creating a rota would not be fair either. At this point, we do not know if more industrial action will definitely take place or if the teachers will choose to strike again.

- **I have read that you can also use volunteers to cover classes, is this something that you could do?** We have some fantastic volunteers who work in our school supporting the children. They have all been DBS checked and have completed some online safeguarding training too. However, they are not trained teachers or TAs and have not had the extensive training that they have had. They would need a comprehensive induction to ensure our emergency measures are understood, that they fully understand our entire behaviour policy. They would also need regular supervision. Because of this, we have assessed that this is not a viable option.

I hope that answers your questions and we are sorry for the disruption that the strike day may cause you. Industrial action such as this is never taken lightly and only when it is felt that this is the last option.

I know that many of the children are keen to bring in their toys to play with at playtime and lunchtime. I would like to ask that you actively discourage your children from doing this; there is a risk that their precious belongings may become broken or disappear. If it is something that your child values, our advice is to keep it at home, thank you.

The FOAV are holding a meeting on Wednesday, 1st February in school at 3.45pm. If you would like to come along and join us to discuss fund raising ideas or simply to find out more about us, you are more than welcome.

If your child has guitar lessons in school please pay for this term's lessons on ParentPay, if you have not already done so.



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A reminder that if your child is late in the morning you must come through the school office so that your child can be registered in reception. If your child's usual door is locked, please do not use any other entrances to get into school. This is for safeguarding reasons, thank you.

Final reminder to year 6 parents that payment for leavers hoodies is due today, 27th January.

The Nottingham Community Dental Services will be in school on 27th March 2023 regarding this year's Epidemiology survey. This survey takes place every year to collect dental health information of a particular age group; this academic year they will be focussing on children in year 6. A sample number of our Y6 children has been selected to participate in the survey. If your child has been selected details and a consent form for your completion will be sent home in due course.

Mr Ward and Mr Lindley would like you to know that there are still places available for multi sports camp in February half term. The dates available are Monday, 13th February and Tuesday, 14th February.

Community News



CHILDRENS MARTIAL ARTS

**FITNESS
SELF DEFENCE
DISCIPLINE
CONFIDENCE**

COMMENT 'YES'
OR
MESSAGE FOR A FREE
TRIAL SESSION

Kickboxing class at St Marks Church & Community Hall on Saturday mornings.

10am - kids age 4-11, 11am - Teens & Adults
Contact Claire on 07718652588 to book in for a free trial class.



February Holiday Clubs Westdale Junior School, Mapperley

Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February

Activities include dodgeball, dance, drama, yoga, multi skills, ball games, art and crafts, team and confidence building activities and much more.



Cost: £33 per day
All childcare vouchers accepted

Timings: 8am-5pm

To find out more or to book visit
www.rattleandrollperformance.com
or call 07722 014301



A FUN FILLED FEBRUARY

TB SPORT
AN EDUCATION AND SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Monday 13th - Thursday 16th

Where to find us
Greythorn Primary School NG2 7GH
Our Lady & St Edwards Catholic Academy NG3 2LG
Willow Farm Primary school NG4 4BN

Soccer School and Dance Academy Return!

USA Day

Superhero VS Supervillain Fancy Dress

CLAY CREATORS

More information and to Book Now -
<https://tbsport.class4kids.co.uk/Camps>



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WESTCARR COACHING ACTIVITY DAYS!

13th & 14th February

We are providing school holiday activity sessions for children aged 7 - 14.

£15 per day, per child including lunch

Activities include football, basketball, dodgeball, inflatables and many more games and prizes!



ARNOLD HILL ACADEMY

NG5 6NZ

9.30AM - 2PM



CONTACT US TO BOOK A PLACE!

PHONE/TEXT: 07368606512

EMAIL: WESTCARRCOACHING@GMAIL.COM

FREE MEAL PROVIDED!



@MASFOOTBALLCOACHING
SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE OUR SESSIONS
BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL TODAY

Fun & Friendly

Football Coaching

In Nottingham

MAPPERLEY ALL STARS FOOTBALL COACHING

WE COACH 900 LOCAL PEOPLE EVERY SINGLE WEEK
SESSIONS FOR EVERYONE FROM 18 MONTHS TO 60+



WWW.MASFOOTBALLCOACHING.COM

@MASFOOTBALLCOACHING

FEB FOOTBALL CAMP

LINK TO BOOK NOW LIVE

MONDAY 13TH FEB
TUESDAY 14TH FEB
WEDNESDAY 15TH FEB
9 AM - 15:15

£25 PER DAY - £60
FOR ALL THREE DAYS

CARLTON LE WILLOWS FOOTBALL
ACADEMY, WOOD LN, GEDLING,
NOTTINGHAM NG4 4AA

@masfootballcoaching

30 JANUARY 2023

U11Ws TRAINING NIGHT

SCHOOL YEARS 5 & 6

U11s girls training at
Paviors RFC starting
Monday 30 January
18.15 to 19.15

£2.00 per session

Rugby, the sport where
everyone has a place

Paviors RFC • BURNTSTUMP HILL • ARNOLD • NOTTS • NG5 8PQ
Contact: Ken James 07765 305722 / ken-paviorsrfc@hotmail.co.uk
Contact: Luke 'Shev' Majewski 07951 980539 / lukemajewski@icloud.com

The East Midlands Special Operations Unit for Cybercrime is hosting a free webinar in February focusing on how to keep safe online. If it is something you are interested in, please follow the link below to book your place.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-safety-advice-for-parents-safer-internet-day-tickets-511593388597?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>



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Thursday, 7 th February 23	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday, 7 th February 23	Parents' Consultation Meeting – 3.40-6.30pm
Wednesday, 8 th February 23	Parents' Consultation Meeting – 3.40-6.30pm
Thursday, 9 th February 23	Parents' Consultation Meeting – 3.40-6.30pm
13 th to 17 th February 23	Half Term
Monday, 20 th February 23	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Thursday, 2 nd March 23	World Book Day
Monday, 21 st March 23	Mother's Day afternoon tea
Tuesday, 22 nd March 23	Mother's Day afternoon tea
Friday, 31 st March 23	Last Day of the Spring Term
Monday, 17 th April 23	First Day of the Summer Term
Monday, 1 st May 23	Bank Holiday
Monday, 8 th May 23	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 th May to Friday, 12 th May 23	Year 6 SATs
29 th May – 2 nd June 23	Half Term week
Monday, 5 th June 23	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Thursday, 15 th June 23	Y3 trip to Brackenhurst
Thursday, 29 th June 23	Transition Day (Arnold Hill Transition Day 1)
Thursday, 29 th June 23	New Parents Meeting – 6pm
Friday, 30 th June 23	Year 6 Arnold Hill Transition Day 2
Friday, 14 th July 23	Year 5 Inspire Day at Arnold Hill
Tuesday, 25 th July 23	Last Day of the Summer Term

