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Executive Headteacher: Mrs. C. Adams  
Headteacher: Mrs. J. Payne

27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

### **Strike action by members of the National Education Union (NEU)**

I am writing to remind you about the proposed NEU strike action. There are three national and one regional day strikes planned. The strike days that are likely to affect schools in this area are:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Tuesday 28 February 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

The NEU has posted a document for parents, carers and grandparents that explains their reasons for taking strike action. It can be found at <https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view> if you wish to read it.

#### **How will strike action affect Churchtown Primary School?**

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. This means that those teachers involved in the action will not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties on a strike day.

It is therefore obligatory for me to consider the impact that industrial action will have on the 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.

To determine whether this school can remain fully or partially open, a detailed risk assessment has been conducted. This considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of our children, 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.

Every school in the country, not least in our Trust, is in a completely unique position because of the number of staff who are in the NEU or other professional associations. This means that the number of staff who have been called upon to take industrial action varies significantly between schools; every school will have to assess and manage their own particular circumstances. Equally, this may also change from the first date to the final dates – there is no assumption from school that the arrangements that we may make for 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, next week, will be the same for the proposed action in late February or March. We will review our risk assessments and confirm our actions in writing, in advance of each of the strike days.



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**The Executive Headteacher and I have decided that on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February the school will be closed to ALL CLASSES except a very small number of children identified by the school. The parents/carers of these children will be contacted directly on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January.** The children in school on this day will not be taught the curriculum and in some cases they will be with staff who are different to who they are normally with. For those who are not in school, the expectations of weekly homework can be carried out at home, including reading, multiplication tables, board and card games, phonics, spellings, topic/theme research and any other weekly homework that has been set. Further information about homework expectations can be found under the year group pages on the school website <https://www.churchtown.org.uk/year-groups/>

#### **Free School Meals for Pupils**

Pupils in receipt of free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch on the 1<sup>st</sup> February. This can be collected from the main entrance of the school office from 9am on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. A ParentApp message will be sent to those families that this applies to on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

#### **Wrap around care and club provision**

There will be no wrap around care facilities and after school clubs taking place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. All children will be reimbursed for sessions on this day.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. 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. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the days that they are on strike.

Should you have any queries arising from this letter or on the day when your child is at home, please contact us on [office@churchtown.org.uk](mailto:office@churchtown.org.uk)

Thank you for your continued patience and messages of support, it is very much appreciated.

Kindest regards,



Mrs J Payne  
Headteacher