

The Federation of Boldmere Schools

Cofield Road · Sutton Coldfield · B73 5SD

Our Vision: The Federation of Boldmere Schools empowers all children to embrace learning; achieve their personal best; and build their social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

Friday 27th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Strike action by members of the National Education Union

Further to the letter shared at the beginning of the week concerning forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), we are now writing to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

There are three national and one regional strikes planned. The strike days that are likely to affect schools in this area are:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Wednesday 1 March 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.

For absolute clarity, although this action is being taken by the NEU, school leaders and other staff stand unanimously with our colleagues in the NEU and are supportive of their action.

How will strike action affect children at the Federation of Boldmere Schools?

As a senior leadership team, through consultation with the chair and vice chair of the schools' Governing body and through liaising with school leaders in other schools, we have decided that for the first scheduled day of this action (Wednesday 1st February) the school will remain partially open to children. What this means is that although school will remain open as normal for some children, we are expecting that for the majority, parents will have to make alternative arrangements on this occasion.

We have considered 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 provision, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As a consequence of this consideration, at the time of writing this letter we are expecting the following classes only to be in school as usual and to be largely unaffected by this action:

At the Infant School, the following classes will be open as usual:

- Nursery
- Owl Class (1T)

At the Junior School, the following classes will be open as usual:

- 3P
- 4H
- 4R/W
- 6J

In the BIB, the following classes will be open as usual:

- Giraffe Class
- LK

To all other classes, we are unable to accommodate the children safely and we apologise for the inconvenience this will cause.

For any children not in school, whilst we are not able to provide class specific remote learning, Mrs Kenny and Mr Sadler will reference in this week's newsletter, universally accessible online learning that parents may wish their children access. In addition, despite the disruption, as a school we have a statutory obligation to provide a free meal to any children that are entitled to a means-tested free school meal (not including Universal Infant Free School Meals), and will do so where these have been pre-ordered via the Dolce School Grid.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. We 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.

Just to reiterate, the impact described above is subject to further amendment and at short notice as the situation develops further and as a consequence of factors beyond our ability to control, for example if there is any progress made in the formal dispute between the secretary of state for education and the teaching unions, including the NEU. We will provide further updates as promptly as we are able, including the sharing of details concerning the impact of the remaining proposed strike days.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Glasgow

Mrs S Kenny

Mr M Sadler

Executive Head Teacher

Head of Infant School

Head of Junior School

The Federation of Boldmere Schools:
Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and Boldmere Junior School
Executive Head: Mr Carl Glasgow
Telephone: 0121 464 2338/3656
Email: enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk