



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Louise Bury B. Ed
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Archdiocese of
Birmingham

19th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

'Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding'

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union have declared strike action, which will take place on Wednesday 1 February, Wednesday 1 March, Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March 2023.

We have now received official notification that the first strike on Wednesday 1st February will go ahead. At this stage we cannot say exactly what the impact will be on the school, however, it is likely that there will be class closures and possibly a whole school closure. I am getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible that learning may be disrupted on these dates so **we would advise that you consider childcare arrangements for those days** in the event that some lessons are moved online or some classes or the school close.

I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education and understand that this situation may be frustrating. I ask that as a community we continue to treat each other with respect and understanding. With this in mind, I would like to take a moment to clarify exactly what teachers are concerned about which is sometimes oversimplified by the media. Whilst it is true to say the initial frustration is about pay rises, the unions have made it clear that they think these increases should be fully funded from central government. Currently this is not the case. There have been a number of pay increases for all staff over the last few years but they have not been funded by the government. This has led to schools having to increasingly bear the brunt of these increased costs which ultimately impacts the children. In real terms school funding has been eroded over the last number of years as prices increase nationally in all areas.

You will have noticed some of this impact on our school: fewer staff – both teachers and teaching assistants; clubs no longer being fully funded; increased costs to trips and visits; reduced resources; the list is lengthy. Teachers want the best for children and we all feel frustrated that we are not able to deliver as we would like because of the funding constraints. We are very conscious that we are not able to meet the needs of every individual child in the way we would wish because there are not enough resources or staff due to restrictions to our budget. School leaders and governors are working closely with our staff union representatives and advisors from external agencies to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you of the final arrangements as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours in faith and partnership

Ms Louise Bury
Headteacher





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