

Wednesday 18th January

Dear Parents and Carers,



Re. Potential Strike Action



You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU -the largest teaching union in England) has voted to take strike action.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and school funding, and not because of any issues at our school.



In England, a 90% majority voted YES on a turnout of 53%. The NEU has demanded a pay increase from the government which is at least in line with inflation and which is fully-funded (meaning that this does not need to come out of a school's existing budget).



There are four announced dates for strike action:

Wednesday 1 February 2023

Thursday 2 March 2023

Wednesday 15 March 2023

Thursday 16 March 2023



Strike action is by nature disruptive, and while the striking members acknowledge that their action creates pressure on families, it is done in order to safeguard educational quality, to ensure standards for staff and children are protected now and in the future.



In taking strike action, staff are sacrificing their pay. At a time of financial tension, this sacrifice is not taken lightly. Striking staff are hoping that the action will encourage progress in the negotiation process.



As the Headteacher of the school, I have to determine the number of striking staff members on each of these days to ensure that the effective and safe provision of education continues to be achieved. I will consider each day in advance.

Therefore, I am getting in touch today to give you as much notice as possible, that learning may be disrupted on these dates, and I would advise that you start to make provisional alternative childcare arrangements for these dates.

So, with this in mind, I can confirm that the vast majority of class teachers have indicated that they definitely intend to take strike action on **Wednesday 1st February**.

The school and Nursery will be **closed to all pupils on Wednesday 1st February**.

I am sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education and I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Millfields remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching and learning experiences.

I will, of course, contact parents and carers to remind you of the strike action and school closure via text and email, and will endeavour to give 2 weeks' notice before a confirmed school closure.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives, and Hackney Education Officers, 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 do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,

Jane Betsworth
Headteacher