



ST LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monday 13th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Proposed Industrial Action: Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023

As included in previous newsletters and also, my previous letter about the Industrial Action (dated 27.02.23), I am writing to update you regarding the next proposed Industrial Action by one of the largest Teacher Unions, NEU, which many of our Teachers are a member of.

The next dates are:

- Wednesday 15 March (England and Wales)
- Thursday 16 March (England and Wales)

While there will be much debate in the media about why this action is taking place, the simple reason why many of the teachers at our school have chosen to strike is because of the chronic underfunding of schools. One aspect of this is related to Teachers pay but there are many others.

- The teaching profession is facing a recruitment crisis
- The education sector has been under-funded for years and in order to continue to try and ensure a high quality education for your children, cuts have needed to be made.
- Pay awards have been granted but then schools have not been provided with additional funding to accommodate these pay awards which means that ultimately jobs could be lost.

At this time, we have a number of teachers who are planning on taking part in the Industrial Action on **Wednesday 15th March only**. Due to the way in which we teach our children across the school, as you are aware children can be taught by different teachers for Reading, Maths, English and afternoon lessons. Therefore, I can inform you that at the current time:

- **Nursery, Reception, Year 2 and Year 3 children—school is not open on 15.03.23**
- **Year 1, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 children—school is open as normal on 15.03.23**
- **All children are back in school as normal on Thursday 16th March.**

I understand this is difficult with siblings but this is a situation beyond my control. Again, those teachers who are striking would like me to inform you that they have not made this decision lightly and it is a last resort. As I have continued to say, we are hopeful that the Unions will be able to reach an agreement so that the further action is not necessary. I am sorry about the potential disruption and uncertainty, I understand that this is frustrating and can cause uncertainty, but please be assured that those teachers striking want the best for your children and for education.

Thank you

Mrs A Grennan
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs. A Grennan
St Luke's Primary School
Park Street South
Blakenhall
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV2 3AE

Phone: 01902 556434
Fax: 01902 556435



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