



Leppington, Birch Hill, Bracknell, RG12 7WW
Headteacher: Michael Dillon B Ed (Hons) MA

Friday, 27 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Proposed Teacher Strike Action

As you are aware from the media, alongside other public sector unions, various teachers unions (NAHT, NASUWT and NEU) balloted their members to strike in relation to pay and conditions. The outcomes from these ballots is that the NEU have confirmed the 50 percent return threshold has been met and their members had voted in favour of strike action. The first of the four dates is **Wednesday 1st February 2023**

Other dates are;

- Thursday 2nd March 2023
- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

Staff at Birch Hill are all highly committed to doing their very best for the children. However, like many other public sector workers they feel that along with their pay, the current lack of funding is resulting in a broken education system. While there is no simple solution, and beside what the government will say, there is simply not enough resources to support our children. And those at risk and in need suffer the most – especially children with SEND. In addition, most schools are facing deficit budget and a staff recruitment and retention crisis.

Staff do not legally have to tell us until the day of action (8am) if they are taking action but because of the commitment to the school and goodwill, staff wanted me to be able to give you as much warning as possible so they have informed me of their intentions before the deadline.

While some staff may be taking action, we believe we can cover this internally, so at this stage, we plan to be **fully open**. However, it is important to be aware that up to 8am on the day of the strike, teachers who had previously decided not to strike could still decide to strike, decide not to cross the picket line, or have late notice of childcare issues themselves. **Therefore, it is essential that parents/carers keep a close eye on the school's website and email/text messages as all changes will be communicated from 8am on the morning of February 1st. If there is a significant change, we will have to close classes on the day.**

Classes which are closed will have a remote learning package of mathematics, reading and writing and this resource will be available on the school website (under remote learning).

I hope that this early notification allows you to make plans for the day.

Regarding the future dates for industrial in March the school will continue to try and notify you as early as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael M", written on a light blue background.

Michael Dillon
Headteacher