



27 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: NEU Strike Days

I was delaying writing to you all until I had a clearer idea of our plan here at Littledown for during the strike days called by the NEU. However, I understand, naturally, our parents and carers have questions about this which I hope I can (somewhat) answer below, but please understand this will be an evolving situation where our plans may need to change with very little notice.

When are the strike days which will affect Littledown?

Wednesday 1st February

Thursday 2nd March

Wednesday 15th March

Thursday 16th March

Who will strike?

We do not know. A number of our teachers are members of the NEU. However, it is down to each individual to decide whether they wish to strike. It will also be down to each individual which (if not all) of the days they choose to strike on. Additionally, the NEU have asked their members not to inform their schools if they will be striking before the day of the strike. Therefore, we do not know who will strike.

Will Littledown stay open?

Again, we do not know. We have minimum levels of adults and strict risk assessments (built around staff with different skill sets e.g. First Aid and specific safeguarding training) who need to be in school for us to open, with the health and safety of our children at the centre of this. I hope, where a teacher is not striking, we will be able to open those classrooms to the pupils in their class as normal. However, nothing at this point is guaranteed. It is important to point out we cannot ask other teachers to cover different classes which are without a teacher due to strike action so therefore, if a teacher is striking, the class will close to all pupils.

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When will parents and carers know if their child can come into school?

Being realistic, for the first strike day, we will only be able to confirm classes are open on the morning of the strike day at 8.00am. We will inform parents and carers via phone in order to share this message as quickly as possible. After the first strike day, we will review our procedures and may need to adapt and change our plans for subsequent strike days (but we will be in contact nearer the time about this).

I do appreciate this causes a significant amount of disruption to our pupils and their families. However, our teachers are entitled to exercise their right to strike and the school supports their right to do this. If you have any queries or concerns that I have not mentioned above, please do contact me via the school office.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Mumford', is shown within a light grey rectangular box.

Angela Mumford
Headteacher

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