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Monday 27th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I have previously made you aware, the National Education Union (NEU) in England and Wales announced that its members would be taking strike action, concerning school pay and conditions, during February and March. Specifically for schools in this region, the dates of strike action announced are 1st February, 2nd March, 15th March and 16th March. Teachers have now shared their intentions for the upcoming strike day on 2nd March.

The plan is to open the school on **Thursday 2nd March 2023** to:

Robins – in full

Kingfishers – for EHCP, FSM (this is for children who are FSM according to Government Gateway and not due to infant free school meals) and critical worker children – **until 1pm only. Please collect the children from the office at 1pm.**

Owls – for EHCP, FSM and critical worker children – **all day**. Swimming will still go ahead and the children will be accompanied by myself, Mrs Dibb and Miss Chen.

Any Owls who do not fall into the above categories are able to join us at Waterlooville Horizon Leisure Centre for their swimming lesson at 1pm. Please meet us at the pool for 12.40pm. The session will finish at 1:30pm and the children would need to be collected for 1.50pm. **We need to know by Tuesday 3.15pm if you are planning to bring your child to the pool.** We appreciate this may be tricky but wanted to be able to offer it to those who would like/are able to join.

Ospreys – in full

As Headteacher, I fully support and respect individual staff members' decision in relation to the strike action. All staff found it an incredibly difficult decision to make and have taken the action to strike due to the continuing pressures and demands on schools' budgets. We will not be setting remote learning, however if you wish for your child to learn from home, they can access educational websites via our school website. As it is the World Book Day, we will also add some book related activities. All classes have received information about their current areas of learning, and children could complete research into these areas should they wish.

We expect children in classes not impacted by the strike to attend school as usual. Those children who are absent because of closed classes will be recorded as authorised absences. **Any one absent for an open class will be recorded as unauthorised unless it is due to normal reasons such as illness.**

For Kingfishers and Owls pupils who fall into the above categories, activities not related to their current learning journeys will be provided for the time they are in. **Please confirm by Tuesday 3.15pm, if your child has an EHCP or in receipt of FSM, whether you will be taking up their offered place.**

Due to a change in our staffing arrangements from the previous strike action day, we are having to make a change to our provision for those children whose classes are not fully open:

We have a limited number of spaces to offer for those pupils in either Kingfishers or Owls whose parents fall under the Critical Worker definition. Due to staffing arrangements, we will be prioritising those where **both** parents are:

1. Emergency Services such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, fire and police staff
2. Health and Social Care
3. Education and Social Care

Due to this, we will prioritise those spaces where **both** parents meet the criteria AND who have not found alternative childcare. **Please contact the school by Tuesday 3:15pm** to request a space. We will then confirm if a space is available on the Wednesday. You will need to detail how you, and any other parent in the household meet the above.

I'm sorry that some of you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and I ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other respectfully.

These arrangements are for 2nd March. I will inform you as soon as possible for arrangements regarding 15th and 16th March. Please also remember that the above arrangements are subject to change as teachers can change their decisions up to the starting point of the school day on 2nd March.

Kind regards,

A. Blower

Mrs Blower