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Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 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 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> March.

This strike action only affects children in classes where the teacher is a member of the NEU.

The teachers involved have now shared whether they are planning to take action. They are not obligated to share this until the morning of action, but they have done so early to help minimise the impact on children and families – I must repeat my earlier advice that, although the below outlines our intended plans for the day, I won't know for certain until the morning of the day and advise you to seek alternative childcare should we have to close completely.

The DfE has advised that I keep as many classes open as I can and, if possible, to prioritise spaces for EHCP pupils, vulnerable pupils (those in receipt of FSM who have applied via the government gateway not who automatically receive FSM due to being in KS1) and children of critical workers.

Keeping this in mind, the plan is to open the school on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 to:

Robins – in full

Kingfishers – for EHCP, vulnerable and critical worker children

Owls – for EHCP, vulnerable and critical worker children

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. 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.

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

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 this, we will prioritise those spaces based on those who meet the criteria AND who have not found alternative childcare. We are not able to offer spaces to those who are not critical worker children. If you are a Critical Worker and unable to find alternative childcare, please contact the school by Tuesday lunchtime to let us know that you will need a space. You will need to detail how you, and any other parent in the household meet this definition. Please see Annex B of [this document](#) for definitions.

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 currently only for the first day of strike action. I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

Kind regards,

*A. Blower*

Mrs Blower