



Church Lane
Hambledon
Waterlooville
Hampshire PO7 4RT
Telephone: 023 9263 2440

Email: adminoffice@hambledon.hants.sch.uk

Tuesday 24th January, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you will have seen or heard the news regarding the NEU's call to industrial action. Please understand that teachers who choose to strike are doing so against the national education policy and resourcing in schools. The call to industrial action is two-fold: below-inflation pay rises or pay freezes for a number of years and the impact this has had on recruitment and retention; and the recent pay rise having to come out of schools' existing budgets which has a direct impact on our children.

Anyone choosing to strike has chosen to forfeit a day's pay in order to make their feelings on the current pay and funding situation known – it will not have been a decision taken lightly. I know that the strike days will be an inconvenience for you but I hope you can understand that those choosing to strike are doing so with your child's long-term education in mind.

My aim is to give you as much notice as possible, however it may be that the classes or the whole school has to close on the day without prior knowledge. As the Headteacher, I am entitled to ask if anyone is choosing to strike but staff do not need to inform me. There will also be members of the school staff who will be impacted by their children's school closing due to strike action which they may not have prior knowledge of. At this point, I feel it wise for you to consider alternative child care for the following dates in case your child's class should have to close:

- 1 February – national strike across England and Wales
- 2 March – regional strike in the South West, South East and London

If a pay deal has still not met by this time, the NEU will launch further strikes on:

- 15 March – national strike across England and Wales
- 16 March – national strike across England and Wales

In making the decision to close or partially close the school please be aware that there are many factors I have to consider. This includes the health and safety aspects of a reduced staff capacity including adequate supervision, necessary first aid cover and the required safeguarding provision. I will also carefully consider the non-statutory guidance we have been issued.

As soon as I have more definite information, I will write to confirm arrangements.

Many thanks for your understanding,

Mrs Blower