

West Sussex County Council  
**SOUTHBOURNE INFANT SCHOOL**  
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Headteacher: Mrs. L. Whiffin, BEd (Hons)

24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be aware that the National Education Union have announced their intention to call their members out on strike on a number of days during this term, the first of these dates being **Wednesday 1 February 2023**. Although the strikes have been reported as being about pay, and its gradual erosion over time, the reasons many teachers will have decided to strike is about much more than personal take home pay. The law only allows you to strike on certain issues with pay being one of them. Please understand that Teachers are striking against the national education policy and resourcing in schools and not against the children they work so hard for every day, they want schools to be funded appropriately so that children can get the education they deserve.

As we have a significant number of teachers in this union it is possible that provision will be disrupted on this day and on the further proposed dates. Further proposed dates that affect West Sussex schools are **Thursday 2 March, Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 March 2023**.

Our school leaders and governing bodies are conducting risk assessments to assess the potential impact to the school in order to be able to plan for these days and to ensure that parents, carers and the pupils are clear on the implications for them. Due to the nature of staffing and proportions of staff involved in action, the impact on each school may be different. School leaders and governors need to be sure that children's safety is paramount and this will require clarity on the staffing available to work on those days. This information is unlikely to be confirmed until the day prior to a strike day. Union members are not obliged to give advance notice of their plans for the day and I can assure you that school leaders and governing bodies are working hard to provide clear information and guidance for you as soon as they are able. Possible options schools may be confirming with you could include the following:

- Partially open (details as to exactly which classes of children will be able to attend school will be given)
- Fully open with adjusted timetable and activities

**As soon as I am able to communicate the detailed arrangements for the day that affect your child, I will be in touch but this is likely to be the day prior to the industrial action taking place.** We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause. Teachers who support this strike action are not taking a day off, striking workers are not paid, teachers are being left with no option to affect change. The strike is not an action aimed at the school, it is a national strike aimed at the government.

As soon as I have more information I will share it with you.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs L Whiffin

