

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

10th March 2023

Dear Parent / Carers,

NEU Industrial Action – Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March – School Closures

We are writing to let you know that on **Wednesday 15th March 2023 and Thursday 16th March the school will not be open as normal, due to national strike action.** This decision has not been taken lightly, and we remain committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all of our children. Having undertaken detailed risk assessments for each of these days, it is apparent that we are unable to fully open with the limited staff numbers that will be available. Whilst we completely appreciate that this will be disruptive and inconvenient for families, the safety of our children always comes first. In light of this, the school will only be open for limited groups of children on **Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March.**

On Wednesday 15th March – All year groups are affected. A limited amount of children will be able to attend on this day.

On Thursday 16th March – ONLY YEAR 2 are affected. A limited amount of children will be able to attend in year 2; all other year groups will be open as normal.

If your child is able to attend school on Wednesday 15th and in year 2 on Thursday 16th we will be in contact with you on Monday.

If you fall into any of the critical worker categories below and you require a place for your child on these days, please let us know via email or by speaking to the school office by Monday 13th March 4pm.

- emergency services
- health and care/NHS staff
- education and childcare

Please note that the normal curriculum and lessons will not be taught in the year groups affected by strike action. We will provide suggested activities for your child on the days they are affected by strikes, however these are not compulsory and just suggestions for the day.

We are sorry you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice and understand that this situation may be frustrating, however we ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. 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. Teachers want schools to be funded appropriately so that children get the education they deserve. Striking teachers do not get paid for a strike day. They are taking a stand to improve the education for the children they care so much for.

It is unlikely that the industrial action will be called off, but if this were to happen, we will contact you to confirm that the school will be open.

Please do feel you can talk to me if you need to. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Lucy Whiffin and Mrs Briley Pappas (Chair of Governors)