



# Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

*Nurturing minds and hearts through God's love*

Dear parent/carer,

As you know, the National Education Union (NEU) is planning to implement a programme of strike days over the coming weeks. We have received health and safety information from our local authority and, having discussed the industrial action with our staff, are we now in a position to let you know how this will affect us at Parochial.

Due to the nature of the industrial action, I will have to inform you of our position before each planned day, as it is possible to have a different outcome for each day of action, based on available staffing and risk assessments.

The first day of industrial action is **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**. You may know that Wednesday is the day when many of our teachers are covered for parts of the day to do their planning, preparation and assessment (known as PPA time). This means that we will be able to open some classes all day and some classes for part of the day. We will only need to close one class for the whole day.

Year Group	1 <sup>st</sup> session	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	Lunch	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session	4 <sup>th</sup> Session
Reception	Open all day as usual				
Year One	Open all day as usual				
Year Two	Closed until 11:15am	Open from 11:15am			
Year Three	Closed until 11:15am	Open from 11:15am			
Year Four	Open all day as usual				
Year Five	Closed all day				
Year Six	Closed until 11:30am	Open from 11:30am			

We know this decision will be disappointing for families and will cause challenges for childcare, and we are aware that it would probably be easier for you if we closed classes for the whole day, but we wanted our response to be proportionate to the number of NEU members who are striking and also to minimise lost learning. We are hoping that attendance is good for the partial days we are open. If your child usually has P.E. on a partially open day, they will still access this in the afternoon.

If your child is in Year 5 and receives free school meals, a packed lunch will be made available to them. This can be collected from the school office after 10:30am on the day of the strike.

If your child is in Year 2, 3 or 6, they will need to make their dinner choice for Wednesday on the Tuesday afternoon, so please have a chat with them about their choices and whether they will be having a packed lunch. Please note the time your child's class can arrive. Children will not be admitted before this time. They should come to the main entrance to be admitted.

Attached to this letter is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document which will detail aspects that will need to be considered on the day, which we hope will help with understanding the context.

Industrial action is not undertaken lightly, and decisions can alter over time even in the hours before a strike day. We have been very fortunate that our staff have been clear about their intentions, but in many schools, teachers are exercising their right not to say whether they will strike. I am sure that our teachers will continue to be as honest about their intentions in the strikes ahead as they have been with this one, and we will keep families updated whenever we have relevant information, to ensure there is clear planning to support our children.

Thank you for your continued understanding in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Walton