



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

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Tuesday 24th January 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

National Teacher Strike

Members of The National Education Union (NEU) – the biggest education union, have voted in favour of strike action. Parents are understandably anxious to know how it will affect them and their children. School is currently liaising with unions regarding the legal position.

The union has stated that teachers are 'hugely mindful' of the impact on pupils of a strike, but believe that the current situation with pay and resourcing in schools, cannot continue and these strikes are the 'last resort.' *This was a hard decision for many teachers to take. They do not want to be on strike.* They want to be in the classroom, doing what they do best – teaching and supporting children. **They lose a day of pay for every day they are on strike.**

A trade union can only call for industrial action if a majority of its members vote in favour of such action in a properly organised ballot, which is what has happened. Of teachers in the NEU in England, 90.44 % of members taking part in the ballot voted YES to taking industrial action on a turnout of 53.27%. This is not a school or local issue – it is a National dispute.

The unions want a fully funded pay rise, not one which comes from the existing school budget and takes away money from what should be planned to be spent on school resources and infrastructure. Unions want schools to be given extra money to ensure pay increases don't have to come from existing budgets as the last pay rise did.

It is for Headteachers to decide whether a mainstream school should close during a strike, or whether it should partially or fully close. This decision is dependent on the numbers of staff who will be on strike within a school.

The strike dates that will affect St John's are:

Wednesday 1st February

Thursday 2nd March

Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March

School will keep you updated about what the situation will be at our school as soon as more information is available. The likelihood is that there will be a partial closure at least.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson
Head of School

