The James Cambell Primary School

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25th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware, teachers who are members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to take strike action. The majority of teachers within the school belong to the NEU trade union.

NEU teachers have voted for industrial action on:

· 1st February 2023

· 2nd March 2023,

· 15th and 16th March 2023.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay.

In the event of a strike, the Department for Education expects the Head Teacher to take all reasonable steps to keep the school open for as many pupils as possible. Having reviewed the available staff, I have decided that the school can only safely remain open for some children next Wednesday, 1st February.

The school will be open for the following children:

* **all** children in year 6 should attend school as usual
* for all other year groups (nursery to year 5), the school will only be open for:
  + children of parents who are key workers
  + children who have an EHCP
  + children with a social worker

If you are a key worker, please inform the school office if your child will be attending before next Wednesday.

If your child is not in one of the categories above, you may need to make alternative arrangements for the care of your child on these days and I apologise for any inconvenience. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staff.

If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, they will be able to come into school at lunchtime for a free school meal. Please let the office know if your child will be coming in for a free school meal by the end of Monday 30th January so that we can ensure the kitchen has sufficient meals.

We will be providing work on Class Dojo for all those children who are unable to attend school on strike days.

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all pupils and parents that we support our staff’s legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child’s education is of huge importance to all staff at James Cambell Primary. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have on your child’s education.

I will inform you of the arrangements for your child on each future strike action day.

I am very happy to discuss any of the above with you.

Kind regards,

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Joe Wilson

Headteacher