



Evelyn Street, SE8 5RJ  
Tel: 020 8692 4351  
Fax: 020 8694 0116

E-Mail: [info@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk)  
Web: [www.deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk](http://www.deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk)

Tuesday, 28 February 2023

Dear Parents,

### NEU Teachers' Strike on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

As you are aware, the second day of NEU Industrial strike action is due to take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. I write to update you on the current position. Neither the Governing Body nor the Headteacher is legally allowed to close the school 'in sympathy' with the strike, however, the challenge to maintain a normal school day is significant and our main concern is the safety of our children.

A decision to close the school or send pupils home is never taken lightly, but in this instance, where staff have elected to take lawful industrial action, I will have no choice but to take appropriate steps to ensure the health, safety and well being of all pupils. This action will mean that I will not have adequate staff cover for classes and cannot operate the school safely for pupils. As a consequence, it will be necessary for me to partially close the school on that day. I have decided to focus resources on our youngest pupils and those pupils who will take their SATs this year. Therefore, **school will be closed in the following year groups Yr3, Yr4 and Yr5 only**. It is your responsibility to make appropriate provision for your child's care. I apologise for the short notice and will help in any way I can if this situation presents difficulties for you or your family. I am aware that school closures inconvenience parents and carers and so I am writing to give you advance notice of the impact of the action on this school.

We plan to minimise disruption and ensure vulnerable children and the children of critical workers are still able to attend school in person. If your child falls into this category and you would like them to attend school on this day, please complete the Google form by the end of the day today. The link to this is [here](#).

Any children eligible for free school meals who we will not be able to make provision for on the day of the strike will be able to collect a packed lunch on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March between 10am and 12 noon from the main school reception. Please email the office on [info@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk) by the end of the day today if you would like a free school meal reserved for your child to collect on Thursday morning.

Our school will remain open for some year groups, however, it is unlikely that lessons will be normal and there may have to be sessions supervised by support staff who have the skills required to carry out the work. There is no legal requirement to teach the curriculum on strike days. **The school will be open for the following year groups Reception, Yr1, Yr2 and Yr6.**

As a result, I have decided to move our World Book Day celebrations to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

School leaders all over the country have written to their MP, urging them to press the government to engage in meaningful negotiations with education unions and resolve the ongoing dispute. You may choose to join them and write to your MP, further information can be found at the *I support schools* website [www.isupportschools.co.uk](http://www.isupportschools.co.uk).

Sincerely,

Ken Johnson  
[headteacher@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Ken Johnson  
Deputy Head: Leona Baffour

