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Monday, 27 February 2023

Dear Parents,

NEU Teachers' Strike on Thursday 2nd March

As you are aware, the second day of NEU Industrial strike action is due to take place on Thursday 2nd March 2023. This is regional strike action but will affect all schools in the London area. This action is not against Deptford Park School itself but is part of national industrial action organised by the NEU in protest of teachers' pay and conditions, and school funding. Some of the teachers at Deptford Park are members of the NEU, and have indicated they will be taking strike action on Thursday 2nd March. I am sure that you will understand that our dedicated and hard working teachers have not taken this decision lightly.

There is no requirement on unions to inform us of which members of staff will take action, and it may be that they will not know themselves as there is no obligation on members of unions to obey a strike call. Therefore, I may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, the decision to close may have to be taken at the last minute. Every effort will be made to give notice at the latest by the day before.

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 on Tuesday. 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 2nd March between 10am and 12 noon from the main school reception. Please email the office on info@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk by the end of the day on Tuesday 28th February if you would like a free school meal reserved for your child to collect on Thursday morning.

If our school does remain open or partly open for some classes, 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.

Whilst we are aware of the inconvenience that the strike will cause families, and appreciate that industrial action is disruptive and you may need to change your plans or working arrangements whilst this action is ongoing. If the strike action is called off, we will confirm this as soon as we can and in this eventuality the school will be open as usual to all children.

The NEU has indicated that they will take further strike action on the 15th and 16th March. Please make a note of these dates and I will write to you nearer the time to confirm any changes to arrangements and whether the strike is going ahead. We must all hope that the issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ken Johnson

headteacher@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Ken Johnson
Deputy Head: Leona Baffour

