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Friday, 10 March 2023

Dear Parents,

NEU Teachers' Strike on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March

As you are aware, two days of NEU Industrial strike action are due to take place next week on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. 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. As with the previous two strikes, we plan to minimise disruption and ensure vulnerable students and the children of key workers are still able to attend school in person.

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 those days. I have decided to focus resources on our youngest pupils and those pupils who will take their SATs this year.

School open	School closed
Reception	Year 3
Year 1	Year 4
Year 2	Year 5
Year 6	

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. **If you have children in the year groups that are open, they should attend school as normal.**

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, please complete the Google form by the end of the day on Monday 13th March. 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 strike days you will be able to collect a packed lunch on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th 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 Monday 13th March if you would like a free school meal reserved for your child for collection on Wednesday and Thursday morning.

The school will be open for the following year groups Reception, Yr1, Yr2 and Yr6., 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.

Head Teacher: Ken Johnson
Deputy Head: Leona Baffour



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We appreciate that industrial action is disruptive and you may need to change your plans or working arrangements whilst this action is ongoing. Talks between the Government and Unions are on-going. 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. We must all hope that the issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible. You may choose to write to your MP, further information can be found at the *I support schools* website www.isupportschools.co.uk.

If you have any questions or concerns about the alternative arrangements outlined above, please contact the office by emailing info@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk in the first instance.

I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Ken Johnson

headteacher@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Ken Johnson
Deputy Head: Leona Baffour

