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Thursday, 29 June 2023

Dear Parents,

NEU Teachers' Strike on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July 2023

I am sorry to inform you that the Department for Education, to date, has continued to refuse to engage in any further negotiations regarding teachers' pay for September 2023. This has not only precipitated all teaching unions to ballot for strike action, but also left many schools in a position where they are unable to accurately budget for the next academic year. It is also very likely that all teaching unions will coordinate industrial action in the autumn term and I will let you know as soon as I can about this and any further disruption that may occur.

In the meantime, you may have heard that the NEU have scheduled two further strike days for this term on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July. 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 these days. I have decided to focus resources on our youngest pupils and Y6 on Wednesday who have a trip planned and Y5 over both days.

Wednesday 5 th July		Friday 7 th July	
School Open	School Closed	School Open	School Closed
Reception	Year 3	Reception	Year 3
Year 1	Year 4	Year 1	Year 4
Year 2		Year 2	Year 6
Year 5		Year 5	
Year 6			

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 on these days, please complete the Google form by the end of the day on Tuesday 4 July. 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 days of the strikes will be able to collect a packed lunch on both days 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 4 July if you would like a free school meal reserved for your child to collect on either or both mornings.

Head Teacher: Ken Johnson
 Deputy Head: Leona Baffour



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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, Yr5 and Yr6 on Wednesday 5th July and the school will be open for the following year groups: Reception, Yr1, Yr2, and Yr5 on Friday 7th July.**

Sincerely,



Ken Johnson

headteacher@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Ken Johnson
Deputy Head: Leona Baffour

