

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

24th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will now be very aware from media coverage and our Friday newsletter that the National Education Union has declared strike action, which are due to take place in the South West of England on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Thursday 2nd March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

The strikes (if they take place) are happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school. However, I do appreciate that this will be frustrating for parents.

We have a significant number of teachers who are members of the NEU. Although we are aware of the overall numbers, the NEU are not obliged to inform us how many of their members intend to strike. As a result, should the strikes go ahead, this will result in significant disruption and severely compromise our ability to run the school safely. I have limited options on this as I cannot ask other teachers to cover for staff who are striking as this would be to undermine the strike and teachers contracts protect them from such actions.

It is therefore likely that the school will only be able to provide a very limited service on any days where the strikes take place. I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education, but I want to give you as much notice as possible of this disruption and, **whilst I really appreciate the inconvenience, recommend that you start to make any necessary alternative childcare arrangements for these days.** It is also worth noting that each school may be in a different position as a result of the number of NEU members in their teaching staff.

- At this moment in time I can confirm that **Dolphin Class will be open on all of the strike days**
- I can also confirm that **Octopus Class will be open on Thursday 2nd March and Thursday 16th March**
- **On Weds 1st of Feb Year 3 can attend school from 1.10pm** – the side gate will be open from 1pm and they will swim and do PE as normal.
- **On Thurs 2nd March Year 2 and Year 4 can attend school from 1.10pm** – the side and back gates will be open from 1pm. Year 4 should wear sports kit and Year 2 should wear forest school kit.
- **On Weds 15th March Year 3 can attend school from 1.10pm** – the side gate will be open from 1pm and they will swim and do PE as normal.
- **On Thursday 16th Year 2 and Year 4 can attend school from 1.10pm** – the side and back gates will be open from 1pm. Year 4 should wear sports kit and Year 2 should wear forest school kit.
- **The Play Station will also be open for any children whom are attending school as usual** that need wrap around care.
- Lettings will also run as normal after school hours which means Gym Clubs will run on their usual days regardless of strike days.
- **If you class is closed on any of the strike days please cancel your meal bookings.**
- Code club will not run on the strike days.

- **Where your child's class is open please follow the normal absence procedure if they are ill. It is a requirement where the class is open that those children attend school as normal and the usual attendance policy expectations will apply.**

If the school is closed for your child(ren) they will be set work that they can undertake remotely, and we will be in touch with any parents or carers where any further support may be required. We will also make sure that students on Free School Meals are able to receive their meals for any days where they are not in school.

As you will have seen, we are far from being in control of this situation. I therefore ask for your understanding as we try to do our best at this difficult time.

We will continue to update you as we know more information and our plans become clear.

Kind regards,
Richard Riordan

Headteacher
Portishead Primary School