



St Bartholomew's CE Multi Academy Trust
Sedgley Road
Penn
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV4 5LG

St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

Headteacher: Rachael Kilmister

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February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Strike action by members of the National Education Union

Following the recent teachers' strike action, I am now writing to you with more details about the latest forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. You may have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

There are two more national and one regional day strikes planned. The strike days that are likely to affect schools in this area are:

- Wednesday 1 March 2023: [East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern]
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

The NEU has posted a document for parents, carers and grandparents that explains their reasons for taking strike action. It can be found at <https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view> if you wish to read it.

How will strike action affect St Bartholomew's CE Primary School?

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. This means that those teachers involved in the action will not teach their class or undertake any other duties on a strike day.

It is therefore incumbent upon me to consider the impact that industrial action will have on the operation of the school. One of the key issues is to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike.

To determine whether this school can remain fully or partially open, a detailed risk assessment has been conducted. This considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As head teacher, I, the chair of governors and the trust board have decided that on strike days the school will likely be:

- **Open to** Acorns, 1 Cherry, 4 Maple (afternoon only), 5 Hazel, 6 Oak and 6 Elder
- **Closed to** Nursery, Conkers, 1 Holly, 2 Ash, 2 Rowan, 3 Apple, 3/4 Elm, 4 Maple (morning only) and 5 Beech



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Please be aware that teachers are able to change their decision about strike action up to the morning of the strike so these arrangements may change. If any of these classes are able to open, we will inform you up to and including the morning of the planned action.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the days that they are on strike.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Rachael Kilmister'.

Rachael Kilmister
Headteacher