



Merridale Primary School

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Our Ref: LT/JH

Date: Monday 13th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Strike Action Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023

You will be aware from media coverage and my previous letter that the NEU teaching union has declared strike action which will take place on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the union and the government over teachers' pay and not because of any issues at our school.

Whilst there is much debate in the media about why these strikes are taking place, the simple reason that teachers across the country are choosing to take this strike action is because they are concerned about the under-funding of education and schools. Teacher pay is one symptom of this but there are many others. Teachers taking strike action and those supporting it feel that children's education is being damaged every day by strained school budgets and the challenges of recruitment and retention of staff.

I am writing to let you know that, at this time, I can confirm that Merridale **will be open as usual to all pupils on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March**. However, I also need to let you know that this could change before 15th/16th March or, indeed, on Wednesday or Thursday morning itself. It would be wise for parents and carers to make contingency plans for childcare on Wednesday and Thursday if this were to be the case.

There are no planned dates for further strike action beyond 15th/16th March at this time but we will keep you updated if this were to change.

I am sorry about the potential disruption that this may cause and I understand that this situation must be frustrating but it is important that I consider the health and safety of children and staff on site and make plans to ensure that children can learn in a safe and secure environment.

We will keep you updated with any developments and changes in arrangements as soon as we know more. Please make sure that the main school office has an up-to-date, working contact number for you and that you are able to receive text message updates from school so that you can receive any information in good time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Towle
Headteacher