



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Rosie Phillips

26 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Wednesday 1st February 2023

Year 1, 2 and 3 Remote Learning. Children of these classes are expected to stay at home.

As you will be aware from the news, the National Education Union (NEU) have announced their intention to proceed with formal Industrial Action on four separate days (3 national and 1 regional) during the Spring term - Wednesday 1 February, Wednesday 1 March, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March 2023.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over the level of funding schools receive and terms and conditions for staff. The disagreement is not with Hawridge & Cholesbury CE School but we will be affected by the strike on the dates above. 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/> if you wish to read it.

How will strike action affect Hawridge & Cholesbury CE 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(es) 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 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 Headteacher, I and the governing body have decided the school will be closed on 1st February to pupils in the affected year groups (currently Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3). Please be advised that these arrangements are subject to change e.g. if further negotiations are reached or further staff decide to take action. In order to allow parents and carers enough time to make necessary plans, I will share any changes with you as early as possible.

Remote Learning

On this strike day (1st Feb), remote learning will be set for pupils on eSchools and paper copies sent home the day before. However, please note that teachers who are on strike are not expected to prepare or set work for pupils on strike days.

Free School Meals (PPG) and School Bus

Further information regarding Free School Meals for Pupil Premium Children will be sent directly to those who have ordered a lunch for February 1st.

For those children attending school, buses will operate as normal and lunches will be available at normal times.

All children are required to attend school on the days that we open for their year group. Any absence will be recorded as an unauthorised absence unless medical evidence is provided.

Planned **Planetarium** visit to school. Miss Macmillan is in discussion with the company providing this and I hope to be able to update you regarding this very shortly.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I'm sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice and/or that they will experience disruption to their education. I would ask you, however, to be understanding and to continue to treat all members of our community with respect. 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.

Hawridge & Cholesbury CE School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students and delivering high-quality first teaching. We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

If you have any questions, please contact us at office@hcschool.uk or 01494 758368

Yours sincerely

Mrs Rosie Phillips
Headteacher