

**Executive Headteacher**: Mr Stephen Snelson

Head of School: Mrs Rachel Watts

Assistant Headteacher: Miss Jessica Hall / Mrs Polly Press

Copt Oak Road, Narborough, Leicestershire LE19 3EF

30th January 2022

## Dear Parents and Carers,

## Strike action by members of the National Education Union

I am writing to you about 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 on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

## How will strike action affect Red Hill Field 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. Staff who are not striking may be unable to come to work if their own children are affected by the strike action at other schools.

To determine whether this school can remain fully or partially open, a comprehensive 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. The Secretary of State for Education held talks with the NEU this afternoon and we had hoped that these talks might have prevented the strike action. This is not the case.

As Executive Headteacher, I and the local governors with support from Learn Academies Trust have decided the school will be closed to all pupils on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. We will consider the impact of the other proposed strike dates in due course.



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Families of children we have identified as vulnerable will be contacted separately to discuss the possibility of on-site provision.

Before and after school club provision will not be available.

## Remote learning

On the strike day, remote learning will be set for pupils and delivered via email to parents and carers on the morning of the strike. We recognise that it will be challenging for some families to complete this work, but it is available for those who can.

If your child is entitled to a Free School Meal (not a universal infant free school meal) please can you email the office as soon as possible if you would like to collect a packed lunch from school. These will be available to collect during Wednesday lunchtime.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause 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 faithfully

Steve Snelson

**Executive Headteacher** 

