

Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West

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30th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

NEU Strike – Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July 2023

As you may have heard, the government's recent pay offer to teachers was rejected by 98% of the members of the NEU (National Education Union) that voted. The union has said that the pay offer was not fully funded and it would therefore adversely affect schools' budgets. As a result, two new strike dates have been confirmed, Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July. Teachers are in fact told by their unions that they do not need to inform their headteacher until the day! Fortunately, I have exceptional staff who know the disruption this will cause so they do kindly inform me. This is not a decision that teachers have taken lightly, especially in the current climate when everyone is struggling to meet the rising costs of living; if a teacher goes on strike to support their union, their pay is stopped for that day.

On Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July, the following classes will be closed due to a reduction of teaching staff in school that will affect our ability to safeguard all children and comply with health and safety during the day that includes breaktime and lunchtime supervision:

Class	Wednesday 5 th July	Friday 7 th July
3L	Closed	Closed
4D	Closed	Closed
4JG	Closed	Closed

On this occasion, we can only run an extra class of mixed year groups on **Wednesday 5th July** due to not having enough staff to cover an extra class on the Friday. Please complete the application form, via the link, to apply for an [Exceptional Circumstances Place](#).

If you meet the criteria required as an emergency critical worker, you should have already completed the survey to be considered for a place in school. We will notify you if you have been successful. We do appreciate your support.

Please be aware that some classes will not have their normal class teachers on Friday 7th as they will be out of school on previously arranged school-related appointments booked before any knowledge of strike days, and these cannot be cancelled. These teachers are not on strike.

We would encourage, where possible, that children work independently on homework, spellings, Doodle English/Maths and times tables. Please be aware that unions do not allow staff on strike to set work.

We apologise for further disruption to education which unfortunately is beyond our control.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. H. West
Headteacher