



19th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Industrial Action

As you may be all aware, that the National Education Union (NEU) and its members rejected the governments offer following the strikes last term. The NEU has called for further industrial action across schools in England over two days in the coming weeks. This action is in connection with a national dispute with the Secretary of State for Education over pay and conditions, school funding and not against any individual trust or school.

Whilst the NEU is prepared for negotiations, which might yet avert industrial action, if not averted then the days currently planned for strike action are:

- Thursday 27th April 2023
- Tuesday 2nd May 2023

Most of the teachers at St Winifred's are NEU members, and are supporting the strike. I am incredibly grateful that staff in our school have shared in advance their intention to take industrial action; staff were under no obligation to do so. Having considered risk assessments and following the 'Handling Strike Action in Schools' guidance from the Department for Education, I am now in a position to advise parents of the impact of the strike action on our school on both dates.

NEU Teachers' Strike on Thursday 27th April

Year Group	Classes open for children	Classes closed for children
Nursery		St Peter
Reception	St Mary our Mother	St Joseph
Year 1		St John the Baptist St Elizabeth
Year 2	St Veronica	St James the Great
Year 3		St Bernadette St Francis of Assisi
Year 4		St Kateri St Martin de Porres
Year 5	St Josephine Bakhita	St Paul Miki
Year 6		St Juan Diego St Alphonsa

NEU Teachers' Strike on Tuesday 2nd May 2023

Year Group	Classes open for children	Classes closed for children
Nursery		St Peter
Reception	St Mary our Mother	St Joseph
Year 1		St John the Baptist St Elizabeth
Year 2	St Veronica	St James the Great
Year 3	St Francis of Assisi St Bernadette	
Year 4		St Kateri St Martin de Porres
Year 5	St Josephine Bakhita	St Paul Miki
Year 6		St Juan Diego St Alphonsa

Clubs:

The majority of the before and after school clubs on these days will be able to run as normal. If your child's class is closed, they will be able to attend the club before or after school. The children will be allowed to enter school for the duration of the club.

	Before School: 7:45 – 8:30am	After School: 3pm-4pm
Thursday 27th April	Football Years 5 & 6	Football Years 3 & 4
		Volleyball 3.15 – 4.15 Yr 4, 5 & 6
Tuesday 2nd May	Girls Football Years 5 & 6	Multi Sports 3.15 – 4.15 Yrs 1 to 6
		Football Yr 3 & 4

Free School Meals

Our Caterers are going to be on site on both days offering hot meals to children, who are entitled to Free School Meals. We are inviting these children to come to school, accompanied by an adult, who will also stay with their child, between 12 noon and 1.30pm. Once they have eaten, they will leave the school.

If you would like to accept this invitation, please email the school office giving your child's name, class and if they require a vegetarian option by Monday 24th April at 12 noon.

I appreciate that this industrial action could cause disruption to the learning of our students, and that you will all have to make alternative provision for childcare on this day if your child's class is closed.

I am sure that you will understand that the dedicated and hardworking teachers at St Winifred's, who care passionately about education and our children, have not taken this decision lightly. The NEU explain: *"This is not about a pay rise but correcting historic real-terms pay cuts. Teachers have lost 23% in real-terms since 2010, and support staff 27% over the same period. The average 5% pay rise for teachers this year is some 7% behind inflation. In the midst of a cost of living crisis, that is an unsustainable situation."* In addition, part of this pay rise has **NOT** been funded by central

government, and will have to be found in the school's existing budget. This will have a direct impact on the provision at St Winifred's and our pupils and staff.

Whilst we are aware of the inconvenience that the strike will cause families, this dispute is with the Secretary of State for Education and very much out of our control. Teachers across the UK are asking the Government to listen to their concerns and reconsider their stance to protect education, and enhance the recruitment and retention of teachers.

I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support. If you have any particular concerns, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "C. Gillespie". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Ms Claire Gillespie
Headteacher