

Wednesday 25th January 2023



Dear Families,

RE: Industrial Action by the National Education Union – Wednesday 1st February 2023

BJS Federation of Schools
Executive Headteacher: Ms A.Parker

On 16th January the National Education Union (NEU), one of the trade unions representing the teaching profession, announced its intention to strike.

The NEU has said it will hold strikes on:

- Wednesday, February 1 (England and Wales),
- Thursday, 2 March (London, South East, South West regions)
- Wednesday, 15 March (England and Wales)
- Thursday, 16 March (England and Wales)

I have been informed that nearly every teacher, in our federation of schools, will be taking industrial action. Having reviewed our options based on the impact of staffing (to what we are aware of at this point) and pupil safety, Bonneville, Jessop and Stockwell Primary Schools will be closed to all children on Wednesday 1st February.

Whilst the school will be open to non-striking staff, they are not permitted to undertake duties that they would normally not do, such as covering for colleagues who are on strike. It is therefore not possible to provide a safe environment for any children on that day.

If your child usually attends clubs (in the morning and after school) on that day you will not be charged as the service will not be operating.

If your child usually attends an extra-curricular club, they will not be operating and we will either run an additional session or refund you for that session. We will forward more information to the relevant families about this.

If you wish for your child to undertake learning activities at home you may wish to explore the following:

- BBC Bitesize has a range of primary age learning activities:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>
- The National Academy <https://classroom.thenational.academy>
- Any activities on google classroom that they have not yet engaged with or completed

Having discussed matters with union representatives, we will be taking a case by case approach, assessing the likely impact of each strike action date closer to the time.

I will do everything I can to keep you informed when I receive the information I need to update you.

At the end of this letter is a message from the National Education Union on why they are taking strike action.

By the end of this week we will be discussing industrial action as a 'current affairs' topic during assembly. We will talk about what unions are and why they may wish to take strike action, in a variety of industries.

Bonneville Primary School

Bonneville Gardens

London SW4 9LB

Tel: 02086731183

Email: admin@bonneville-primary.lambeth.sch.uk

Web: bonneville-primary.lambeth.sch.uk/



@bonnevilleps

Jessop Primary School

Lowden Road

London SE24 0BJ

Tel: 02072742333

Email: admin@jessop.lambeth.sch.uk

Web: jessop.lambeth.sch.uk/



@JessopPrimary

Stockwell Primary School

Stockwell Road

London SW9 9TG

Tel: 020 7274 7687

Email: clericalofficer2@stockwell-pri.lambeth.sch.uk

Web: stockwell-pri.lambeth.sch.uk/



@StockwellPri

I appreciate that this closure will impact families and I am sorry for the inconvenience caused. However, as an experienced headteacher, I will add that the financial situation for schools is more challenging than at any time in my leadership experience and I hope that any pay increases awarded are fully funded, which has not been the case so far.

If you have any questions, please do contact me or other senior leaders in the usual ways including on the school gates.

Regards,

Ms A. Parker

Executive Headteacher



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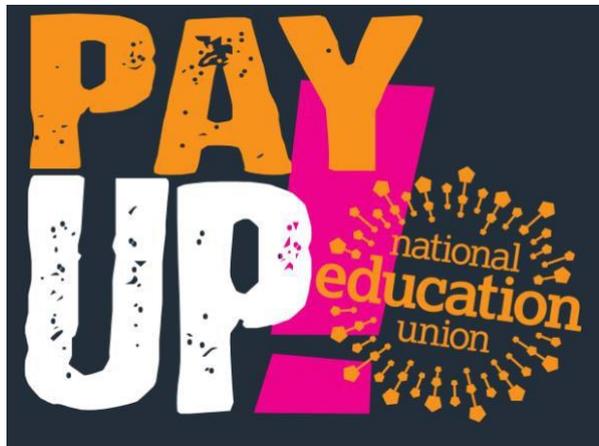
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A message to parents, carers and grandparents from the National Education Union (NEU).

You might not know why we have taken this decision.

But what you do know is that we try to do our best for your children.

To give them a good education and make school a warm and welcoming community, where staff know and understand them and you.

Where we give them continuity and stability, with enough teachers and support staff. And the proper resources to help them learn and grow.

But we are struggling to do that right now.

In July, the Government offered most teachers a pay rise of just 5 per cent - with inflation soaring, that adds up to a 7 per cent pay cut. The 5 per cent offered isn't fully funded - **that means the Government expects your school to pay for it out of its already dwindling budget.**

Because our pay is not keeping up with the cost of living, teachers and support staff are leaving for jobs with comparable salaries but without the stress and workload generated by targets and paperwork that exist in schools right now.

One in three teachers leave education within five years. And last September, almost a third fewer trainees began teacher training than are needed. Schools have too many vacancies.

Managing with fewer staff also means we can't give enough personal support if your children need extra help. And it means they have reduced access to sports, drama, music, and other activities that make the week for a lot of pupils.

We don't want to be on strike.

We'd rather be in the classroom, getting on with what we do best - teaching and supporting your children. But we can't stand by and see our colleagues experience hardship with yet another real terms pay cut. And we can't stand back and watch the exodus from teaching and the resulting decline in the quality of education for your children.

Our action for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise isn't just about making sure that teachers and support staff make ends meet.

It's about the future of education.

This Government is failing children and young people and those who teach and support them.

And, like our NHS staff, we are being forced into taking action for our members, our pupils and their future.

Please show your support by writing to your MP and take the time to tell your child's teacher and support staff that you are with them.

Thank you.



**Scan this QR code
to find out what you
can do to support us.**

