



*'Our Best at all Times'*

Headteacher: Mrs Mitzi Nichol

9 March 2023

Dear Stillness Families

**Y3, Y4, Y5 Only**

You will have heard in the press, that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared another strike action which will take place on: **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. The NEU is one of several teaching unions and different schools will have different numbers of striking staff.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government. 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"*.

I am sorry to inform you that Stillness Junior School will therefore **be closed on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to Y3, Y4 and Y5 children only** and we ask that you do not send your child/ren into school on these days.

The staff have not taken this decision lightly. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils, and feel that we would not be able to provide safe supervision with the support staff we have available. There will be no remote learning provision as the staff who plan and upload the work will be on strike.

I have again spoken to Chartwells who will provide a hot school dinner for those children who are currently eligible for free school meals on these dates. The hot school meal will be available for your child to eat at school. If you would like to book a dinner please confirm via your child's Parent Pay account no later than **tomorrow**. Could you please bring them into school at 12.30pm and collect them at 1pm.

**Y6 Only**

In collaboration with our Governing Body we are prioritising the Y6 children as it is their final year in primary school and many schools have taken the decision to prioritise examination year groups. Stillness Junior School will therefore be open on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to Y6 children ONLY**. If you would like to book a school dinner for these dates please confirm via your child's Parent Pay account no later than tomorrow otherwise they should bring their packed lunch in as normal.

The school will open as normal for all children on **Friday, 17 March 2023**.

Our sincere apologies for the difficulties that these arrangements will cause parents and carers but unfortunately these are circumstances beyond our control.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Nichol  
Headteacher

