

HORSELL CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL Everyone Matters - Everyone Learns

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Dar Parents and Carers:

I wrote to you last week about the planned industrial action from the National Education Union. Currently, the dates that the NEU has said its members will be taking action are 1 February, and 2nd March. The NEU has stated that further industrial action may take place on 15th and 16th March if the government do not reach a settlement. The impact of the strikes on children at Horsell Junior may be different on each of these dates.

Many of our teachers are members of the NEU and I can confirm that some will be striking on Wednesday.

The advice to headteachers around strikes is that schools should complete a risk assessment and, based upon that risk assessment, work out how, and if, the school can remain open to learners. Non-striking teachers cannot be asked to cover the classes of teachers who are striking.

Our current position is that some classes will have to close on Wednesday. I can confirm that Year 6 classes will remain open and I am hoping to finalise information about which classes will be closed over the next couple of days. However, it is still possible that I may not know the full extent of the strike until Wednesday morning. My advice to all parents in years 3-5 is to plan for the eventuality that their child may be at home on Wednesday. I can confirm that all children with an EHCP are able to come into school, but may be placed in a different class for the day. Children who are in a class where the teacher is not striking must attend school as normal.

After school clubs run by external providers, such as orchestra, will take place and parents of children who have been at home can bring them back to school for 3 15pm. Booster clubs run by Horsell Junior teachers will not take place.

Children learning from home on Wednesday should use the Oak Academy to complete online independent learning (https://www.thenational.academy/). The Oak Academy can be accessed via a phone, iPad or computer. Children at home should also complete any homework that has been set for the week, practise their spellings and timetables and complete some independent reading.

As I wrote last week, taking strike action is never an easy decision for any employee. It is important that, during this difficult time, our community continues to live by our shared school values of dignity, hope, love, forgiveness, justice and service.

Yours sincerely,

Celia G. Wand

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