

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, the NEU teachers' union have declared strike action, which will take place on Wednesday 1st February. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government in relation to underfunding of schools and teachers' pay and not because of any issues at our school.

A number of teachers have informed me, today, that they intend to participate in the planned strike action, however staff are not obliged to say in advance whether they plan to participate in industrial action. This has allowed us to start to put plans in place ahead of the planned action.

Our plan is still to take all reasonable steps to keep the school open to as many pupils as possible, but we will obviously need to keep reviewing this to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff. In order to be within staffing ratios to provide good quality safe education for the children in school we have made the decision to close certain year groups. Further emergency closure measures may still need to be taken. We are sorry for any uncertainty that this causes for you.

Arrangements for the day:

- Governors have been consulted and informed about the risk assessment and its implications.
- Reception classes, Y1/2 LS, Y2SJ, Year 4 classes, Year 5 classes and Year 6 classes will **remain open**.
- After a thorough risk assessment, staffing ratios within school do not allow for us to open all classes and a decision has been made to **close 1LC and Year 3 classes**. Suggested activities will be available on the Year Group pages of our website for these classes.
- Unlike during COVID closures, we are unable to accommodate the children of key workers on this occasion. We will approach families of children we consider vulnerable and discuss arrangements with them directly.
- Any further reduction in staffing levels, due to illness, could necessitate further partial or full school closure as an emergency measure. Please look out for Eschools messages and the banner on the school website for up to date information next week.
- Pupils are required to attend school and normal reporting arrangements are in place regarding their attendance, unless their class is closed.

Headteacher: Mrs J Simpkins, B.Ed NPQH

Adopted charity
for the Year



- Doors will open to pupils at **8.55am**, rather than 8.45am. We normally open our doors 10 minutes early for a 'soft' start but will be unable to do this with reduced staffing. This includes the pastoral entrance which normally opens at 8.30am.
- There is no legal requirement to teach the curriculum on strike days and the pupils will enjoy a variety of carefully planned activities.
- The end of the day will be 3.15pm, as normal.
- After school clubs will run as normal, if staff are available.

We have not taken this decision lightly and I'm sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Newburgh Primary School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality education.

We are working closely with our staff to keep up to date with the situation, and will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements need to change further.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Simpkins at admin2325@welearn365.com.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards

Mrs J Simpkins

Headteacher

