

Walkley Primary School
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Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock
Headteacher: Chris Wallis
Deputy Headteacher: Jenna Leverton

'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'

26th January 2023

National Strike Action – School Closure to pupils on 1st February 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Following on from my letter last week, I'm sure you are aware that the National Education Union (NEU) has authority from its ballot to call upon its members to take part in industrial action. Thank you to those of you who have passed on your kind words and respect for those with a mandate to strike. I sincerely hope that the strike action does not affect the supportive relationship between parents and staff at Walkley. The first action is planned for:

Wednesday 1st February 2023 - Strike Action: National

As previously stated, and in agreement with the striking union, we are prioritising the Year 4 Residential and this will go ahead as planned on the 1st of February with the no changes to the existing residential team. As the majority of our teachers are members of the NEU, we anticipate that potentially only 4% of the teaching team will be available to teach in school that day (i.e. not attending the residential). Therefore, with significant numbers of teachers who may take strike action not in school that day, and with the health and safety of the pupils paramount to our decisions, we can confirm that the **school will be closed to all pupils on the first strike day (Wednesday 1st February)**.

Pupils in Year 4, attending the residential, should attend school ready for their trip, at the usual time.

Home Learning

For all other children, we will provide home learning tasks which we will share with you before the day of the school closure. We appreciate that the industrial action poses several issues for parents and, with that in mind, the work that we will direct you towards will be optional and will be learning that the children have previously covered. It will not be compulsory. This is likely to be websites such as BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy. The learning children complete will not need to be submitted on Google Classroom.

Free School Meals

For children in receipt of Free School Meals, including all children in Reception and KS1 we will be offering a food grab bag. The grab bag will contain a cheese sandwich, biscuit, piece of fruit and salad pot. To ensure the necessary items are ordered please complete the google form so the kitchen know how many to prepare. Please complete the google form below by 9am on Monday 30th January. Ordered grab bags can be collected from school on Wednesday 1st February from 12pm until 12:30pm. Please indicate all children in your family that require a grab bag.

[Google Form: Request for Free School Meal Grab Bag](#)

Breakfast Club, After school Club and Enrichment Clubs

Breakfast Club and After school club will also be closed on the day. Parents whose children attend the Y4 to Y6 Cheerleading Club or KS1 Multi-skills club will receive a refund for this session directly from school via Pay360. Pupils who attend Yoga club will receive further information from the teacher about rescheduling the session.

We understand the difficulty that the strike action and subsequent closure of our school to children may pose for our families and would like to reiterate that our decisions for the first strike day (Wednesday 1st February) have been taken to ensure the health and safety of all our learners. We will review and assess this approach for further strike dates and inform you of the outcomes of risk assessments at that time.

If you have any further questions at this stage then please contact enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk or contact the office and ask to speak to Mr Wallis on 0114 2340550

Kind Regards

Chris Wallis
Headteacher