

# GREENLANDS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

The strike action that you will have heard about in the news and that I mentioned on the newsletter is going ahead as planned on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 in the first instance. As you will be aware, the strike is happening because of a national dispute between the National Education Union (NEU) and the government over teachers' pay and working conditions, and not because of any issues at our school.

Please see the message for parents/carers, which has come from the NEU, explaining more about the reasons for the strike action, on the reverse of this letter.

**I am sorry to inform you that Greenlands will be closed on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February to children. We are asking you not to send your child into school on this day.**

We have not taken this decision lightly. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and feel that we would be unable to provide this with the staff we have available.

I am 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, again, that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

I am continuing to seek advice from the local authority and union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

We will be available via telephone should you need someone to talk to on the day.

If you have any questions, please contact me through the school office.

Kind regards,

Mrs S V Cornwell

Head Teacher

## Message to parents/carers from the NEU

You might not know why we have taken this decision, but what you do know is that we always try to do our best for your children.

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

We give them continuity and stability with enough teachers who know their subjects and have the proper resources to help your children learn and grow.

**But we are struggling to do that right now.**

In July, the Government offered most teachers a pay rise below the rising rate of inflation amounting, in reality, to a pay cut. They expected every school to pay for this out of its budget with no extra funding to balance the extra cost, leaving less money for resources for your children.

As pay is not keeping up with the cost of living, teachers are leaving the profession with one in three teachers leaving within the first five years.

Alongside this, fewer trainees are beginning teacher training than are needed meaning there is a growing recruitment crisis.

This has resulted in schools being under-funded and struggling to recruit enough good teachers, impacting on the quality of education for your children.

**Please support the staff in your children's school.**