



CANFORD HEATH INFANT and JUNIOR SCHOOLS

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TEACH Trust Poole

Trust Excellence Aspiration Collaboration Honesty

Article 29: Children have the right to develop their personality and talents to the full.

Tuesday 24th January, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

NEU Strike Action – Wednesday 1st February 2023 Canford Heath Junior School

As you will be aware, the National Education Union (NEU) has balloted its' members and has proposed four strike days for eligible teachers this term. The first of these days is on Wednesday 1st February. We have had a number of responses from teachers as to who intends to take part in this industrial action, and have spent time looking at the school structure, staffing levels and how the school can run safely and effectively on this day, accounting for the numbers of teachers who intend to take part in the strike.

Obviously, these plans may be subject to change, as additional staff may also need to be off, if their own child cannot attend school due to the strike action. As soon as we know any additional changes we will, of course, keep you updated further.

Where teachers are not taking part in industrial action, we intend to keep the classes open. We have prioritised the spare cover in the school to cover classes where the teacher is not attending due to their own childcare issues and/or to support the attendance of our most vulnerable children.

The classes which will remain open on 1st February are currently:

3L; 5T; 5S; 6M; 6H; 6N; 6YH – these children are still expected to attend school.

All other classes will be closed, and your child will not be able to attend that day.

In addition to the classes above, we will also be contacting some individual families to ask their child to attend on this date, and they will be taught and supervised by other members of staff whilst their class teacher is off. This might be to join an open class or to be taught by an HLTA. The children who will be asked to attend in addition to the classes above are: Looked After Children; previously Looked After Children; children with an EHCP; children who meet other social care criteria; and BCP-registered young carers. Due to the numbers of staff unavailable on this day, we are unable to offer space to children of key workers in closed classes and will not be offering remote online learning.

If your child is being offered one of these exceptional places, we will contact you by 3pm on Thursday to let you know. Please do not contact the office to request a place for your child as we will be unable to accommodate your request at this time.



Canford Heath Infant School Canford Heath Junior School



[canford_heath_infant_school](https://www.instagram.com/canford_heath_infant_school) [canford_heath_junior_school](https://www.instagram.com/canford_heath_junior_school)



Any year groups which have classes missing on this day will pause their planned lessons until the Thursday, so that children who cannot come in do not miss the progression of lessons. Other curriculum-related work will be set for those in school.

If you have booked and paid for your child to attend Breakfast Club or Buddy Club, and they are in a class which is not able to attend on this date, we will automatically refund the payment for that day to your account. Breakfast and Buddy Club will still be available for those attending school, if booked.

If your child was due to attend a paid for club on this date, run by internal staff, e.g. cookery, we will also refund payment for that session onto your account. If your child was due to attend a club by an external club provider, please contact them directly to discuss the refund. If your child is in school on this day and the club needs to be cancelled, we will, of course, let you know.

If your child is not in and has a free school meal, this will be cancelled. We are unable to provide a free meal for home for those not attending on this day. If you have paid for a hot meal for your child on this day, and they are not able to attend due to their class being closed, we will cancel this and credit your hot meals account.

If your child has a peripatetic music lesson taking place on this day, and they cannot attend due to the strike, this session will be either refunded or rescheduled. If they do have a lesson next Wednesday, please email Mrs Turner on music@teachpoole.com to find out more.

Please know that, for many of the teachers, this was a particularly difficult decision, as they are extremely torn between wanting to stand up for the lack of funding for pay and for schools themselves to support any pay increases, and wanting to be there to teach and care for their pupils, your children. Most of their grievances are not, in fact, related to their own pay, but more concerned with the fact that government-agreed pay increases are not fully funded by the Government, which means that schools are unable to fund teacher pay increases AND be able to afford all the extras that children need, such as support staff and resources. It is this issue that the majority of our teachers feel most strongly about.

We hope you will understand that we have not taken the decision lightly to ask some classes to stay at home and only after careful consideration of the risks to our children. **If the national picture on this planned action changes, we will of course let you know.**

With thanks for your understanding in this matter.

Kind regards,

Mark Wilson
Headteacher

Kate Carter
CEO



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