



## St. John's Catholic Primary School, Burscough

Chapel Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk

Lancashire L40 7RA

Website: [www.burscough.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.burscough.lancs.sch.uk)

Email: [bursar@burscough.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@burscough.lancs.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs E M Devey BSc (Hons)

Telephone: 01704 893523

25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, there is a planned strike action by the NEU initially next Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Potentially, there will be further strikes on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 15<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> March.

The headline indicates that the strike action is down to pay, however a key issue in the decision also concerns the continued erosion of school budgets and the impact on being able to maintain the quality of education. I know that action is not being taken lightly, but with a heavy heart. Teachers will not be paid when striking.

As you will appreciate, I have been liaising with the Chair of Governors to create a risk assessment to consider the safeguarding, health and safety, first aid provision and supervision of pupils. Additionally I am unable to ask staff that are able to attend to carry out duties outside of their normal scope.

However some factors cannot be known until the day of the strike, for instance, additional staff sickness, or staff absence due to their own childcare arrangements.

The current estimate is that I will have 36% of staff available and one first aider. When considering a potential, partial opening, I would need to prioritize the pupils for whom we could accommodate, for example, disadvantaged pupils and key worker children.

Unlike the closures during the pandemic however, if there are places available for all children of key workers, they will be limited due to staffing levels.

I would advise that you try to make alternative childcare arrangements for the day in the event that there has to be a full closure, which I consider to be likely in the circumstances. I know this will be very frustrating for you, especially in the aftermath of school closures through the pandemic. And I am sorry that at this moment I cannot provide a definitive response. I will keep you as updated as I can.

Best wishes

Mrs Devey  
Headteacher

