



21st April 2023

Colmers Farm Primary School
Leybrook Road
Rednal
Birmingham
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Telephone: 0121 716 0455
Email: enquiry@excelsiormat.org

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Planned strike action at Colmers Farm Primary School on 27th April and 2nd May 2023

We write to update you on the progress of our contingency planning during the forthcoming strike action in schools.

Background

We have had confirmation from NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike which will take place on, 27th April and 2nd May 2023.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain the dispute and to also outline the school's plans during the strike.

What is the dispute which has led to the strike about?

As you may know, over the summer the Department for Education agreed to a 5% pay rise for teachers. Teaching unions across England and Scotland, including the NEU are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers' pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living. They are also in dispute because pay rises are not being funded by the Government and are coming out of existing school budgets.

What will happen at the school during the strike?

- **School will be partially closed.**

School will be closed to the following classes:

1K
1W
2B
2P
3F



This is correct at the time of sending, however by the nature of strikes this is potentially subject to change.

- **Remote education will be accessible to all pupils not required in school on this day (via Oak National Academy, which can be found in the useful links section on the school website);**
- **Mathletics, Spelling Shed, MyOn and Accelerated Reader;**
- **All other pupils are expected to attend school as normal.**

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line.

We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances. We appreciate that any partial closure may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to *all* staff at Colmers Farm Primary School. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Yours sincerely

Hazel Pulley

Hazel Pulley
CEO
Excelsior MAT