

Principal: Vicky Counsell

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Friday 27th January 2023

Industrial Action Strikes Information

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week I wrote to inform you that members of the National Education Union had voted for industrial action which will impact Begbrook Primary Academy. These strikes – the result of a pay dispute between union members and government – are scheduled for February 1, March 2, and provisionally March 15 and 16.

As per my letter last week, this will result in disruption to the Begbrook Primary Academy routine, and some scheduled lessons will be unable to go ahead. Department for Education guidance asks us to consider education for vulnerable groups, as well as children taking part in upcoming assessments (year 6 SATs). Taking into account predicted staffing levels on the day, I can now share our plans for February 1. As ever, pupil wellbeing remains our priority, and careful risk assessments have been carried out to assess which lessons and activities can safely continue. As promised, I can now share our plans for February 1.

At Begbrook Primary Academy, the following will apply:

- The school will be able to offer a number of places to children who meet the Department for Education criteria of being vulnerable learners (eg, children with Education, Health and Care Plans) who need to be prioritised for places. The families of these children will be contacted directly by the school (today, via email) to confirm place offerings. These children will be placed in mixed-aged groups and carry out a range of activities throughout the day. They will also have a full lunch break and have the full lunchtime menu available to choose from on the day.
- All Year 6 children will be asked to attend school as usual and they will follow their usual timetable of learning for the full day. They will have their lunch break as usual and will have the full lunchtime menu available to choose from.

The school will be closed to all other year groups (including pre-school).

The school will be able to offer breakfast club and after-school club facilities for children who are attending school on February 1. These will need to be paid for in the usual way for any families wishing to use these facilities. Please log into ScoPay in the usual way to book your place and pay in advance.



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The academy usually operates a Bristol Sport After School Club on Wednesdays from 3.30 – 4.30pm. This will not be available to children who are not attending school on February 1. The school will organise for an additional session of this club for those children to make up for the missed club on this day. We will be in touch with families affected by this to confirm the new date.

Please note these arrangements may need to change ahead of subsequent strike dates. However, we will continue to work closely with our staff union representatives to keep up-to-date with the situation, and I will inform you of our plans for those days as soon as possible.

I am sure we all hope for a swift resolution to this dispute which will satisfy all parties. Until then, we recognise and respect the right of Begbrook Primary Academy staff to take part industrial action and ask that all members of our community continue to treat each other with respect. And while I understand this situation may be frustrating, your continued support for our school at this time is appreciated.

I do hope this has answered your questions and will allow you to plan ahead for any disruption. However, should you have any further questions, do please contact the school through the usual channels.

We have not spoken with the children about this directly as we wanted parents to have this information as soon as we were able to provide it. During our whole school assembly on Monday, we will be covering some content relating to 'individual liberty' (British Values) and will answer questions children may have about this then.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Counsell

Principal



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