



# ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL



26 January 2023

Dear Families

## Ref: School closure on 1 February 2023

I write to advise you that, in light of the strike action taking place on Wednesday, 1 February 2023, the risk assessment conducted shows that it may not be safe to open the school on that day.

**As a result, regrettably, Abbot's Lea School will close to all students on Wednesday, 1 February 2023. Please ensure that you cancel your child's transport (we will advise LCC SEN Transport Team, but do not have direct access to transport providers).**

We are closing because we are likely to have insufficient numbers of staff reporting for work to provide the safety to the students and to meet their complex needs. These likely staff shortages also mean that I cannot guarantee my staff team a safe working environment. Whilst some of those facts are already well-communicated, there is also a high risk of a last minute staff absences increase due to their own children's schools closing at the last minute and them needing to take parental leave on the morning of the strike. Therefore, both the known, and the anticipated risks of disruption to the school's operation are high and I know you will appreciate an advanced notification to allow you to put plans in place.

As you are aware, future strike action is also scheduled for 28 February, 15 March and 16 March 2023 and, based on the developments arising, I recommend that, the families may wish to plan for the alternative childcare on these future dates.

I realise that any disruption to the school's operation results in a loss of formal learning to our students and I know that my team and I are concerned about this. I am working with my Leadership Team to ensure that home-based learning opportunities and exam revision opportunities are shared with you shortly, in an attempt to minimise the impact on the children. We will, of course, all support our students upon their return to school on the Thursday.

Additionally, families of students eligible for free school meals will be contacted in due course, with an offer of support in lieu of the meal we would provide at school that day.

Lastly, I realise that the personal views on the strike action are likely to be divided, with some in support of it, others against it, and those who do not hold any strong views towards it at all. It is important that, as a school community, we remember that this diversity is as worthy of our understanding and acceptance, as any other in our society. I therefore thank you all for your understanding and mutual respect at this important time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Hildrey  
Headteacher