



# ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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



8 March 2023

Dear Families

## Ref: School closure on 15 and 16 March 2023

I write to advise you that, regrettably, in light of the ongoing unresolved dispute of Teachers' Unions with the central government over pay and schools' funding, the strike action announced for 15 and 16 March 2023 is still likely to go ahead.

**As a result, sadly, Abbot's Lea School will close again to all students on Wednesday, 15 March and Thursday, 16 March 2023 as the risk assessment shows that it may not be safe to open the school on those days.** I wish to highlight that, should the Trade Unions call off the strike action at any point prior to, or during the 2-day action, we would review our risk assessment, with the view of remaining open.

**Please be reminded to cancel your child's transport, if applicable (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 based on the previous strike days and their impact on our school, there continues to be 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 want to offer as much notice as possible ahead of this 2-day disruption.

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. My Leadership Team will ensure that home-based learning opportunities and exam revision opportunities are shared with you ahead of next Wednesday, in an attempt to minimise the impact on the children. We will, of course continue to support our students upon their return to school on the Friday and catch up on any learning missed.

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 wish to thank you all for your understanding and mutual respect at this time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Hildrey  
Headteacher