



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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



20 June 2023

Dear Families

Ref: Teacher's strike days and school closure notification on 5th July 2023

I am writing to inform you that, regrettably, due to the ongoing dispute of the teachers' trade unions with the central government over pay, conditions and inspection, remain unresolved.

Following last weekend's announcement of further strike action on 5th July and 7th July 2023, we have had to use this past year's experience of these events to inform our risk assessment.

As a result of the planned strike action on the 5th July, the school will close to all students on that day. 7th July 2023 is a pre-planned INSET day and so the school is closed to all students already, so it will not impact our students any further.

I realise that this is a very difficult and short-notice announcement from the professional associations, and I am acutely aware of the accumulative effect of the pressure this puts on many families, including but limited to those who work and need to take unpaid time off work. I apologise for any inconvenience and negative impact this 1-day closure will have.

I know you will agree with me, however, that, knowing we may not have sufficient staff, of the right staff for specific students' complex needs, makes it impossible to operate safely on the day.

I thank you for your understanding and I wish I could confidently say that this year will be the end of the dispute, however, I am aware of the numerous trade unions – for leaders, teachers and support staff – planning balloting of their members in the new school year... All I hope for is that we will see a positive resolution through constructive dialogue and consensus in time for September, so that the children's education does not suffer any more disruption.

As ever, I will, of course, keep you posted, as I learn more about this complex landscape in the weeks and months to come.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher