

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: Planned strike action at St Buryan Academy on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

We write further to our previous correspondence 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 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 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 pay rise for teachers. Teaching unions across England and Scotland, including 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.

**What will happen at the school during the strike?**

- Little Choughs, the school's nursery, will remain open as usual
- Nanjizal Class, Years 3 and 4, will be open as usual
- The following classes will be closed to pupils for the day: Penberth (Reception), Gwenver (Years 1 and 2) and Porthcurno (Year 5 and 6). These children will be given home learning tasks on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- If your child is in a class that will be closed for the day they should not attend school unless they are a child with SEND, are Pupil Premium or are children of essential workers (NHS staff, Police or education). Should you wish to clarify, then please contact me via email. If your child is any of the above and will be attending that day, please notify me to confirm their attendance by email.
- All classes will be open again from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.

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. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students and parents that both as a Trust and school we support our staff's legal right to strike. 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 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 St Buryan Academy. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh McDonald', with a large circular flourish at the end.

Mr Josh McDonald – [head@stburyanacademy.org](mailto:head@stburyanacademy.org)