



# Whitstable Junior School

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Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Doubtless you will have heard in the media about some upcoming strikes by the National Education Union. In the South East area, these are scheduled for:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Thursday 2 March 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

It remains possible that an agreement will be reached which may mean that these strikes do not go ahead, but we have begun our planning for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February in the event that they do. To that end, we have consulted with colleague Headteachers across the CACoT schools in Herne Bay and Whitstable so that, where possible, we have a consistent approach, and one that is easy for parents to follow.

As per DFE guidance, schools are expected to remain open wherever possible, but only if there are sufficient staff available to do so safely. We are in the process of assessing the extent to which we can do this, on an individual school basis. Whilst this will vary from school to school, it seems certain that the vast majority of our schools will be significantly affected.

Therefore, **we are advising Year 6 parents of Whitstable Junior School that some of you may have to plan for alternative arrangements for their children for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at this stage**, as we recognise that we are already only a week away. We will write to the Year 6 classes individually following this letter.

Year 3, 4 and 5 are unaffected on this occasion. So, as it stands, **school will be fully open for all of Year 3, 4 and 5.**

We acknowledge the disruption that this will cause those parents, but this disruption is the inevitable and intended result of strike action of course, and a decision that no teacher will have taken lightly and will lose a day's pay as a result. Let us hope the dispute can be resolved as soon as possible. They are keen to see a fully funded fair pay settlement for both teachers and support staff which does not further impinge on already stretched school budgets, so that the impact on schools and children is reduced.

We will write to the year 6 classes individually with details of how this will affect your child and which classes will be closed and for how much of the school day, and keep all parents up to date if there are further developments, changes, or details which emerge.

Many thanks for your understanding at this complicated time,  
Mrs Roy and Mr Cooper

