



Whitstable Junior School

Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DB

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Headteacher: Ms Sarah Kent

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Monday 26th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carer,

As you may be aware, the NEU have planned further strike days during term 6. The planned dates “*In the South East area, are scheduled for*”:

- Wednesday 5th July
- Friday 7th July

We anticipate that **school will be fully open for classes**. Staff who took strike action previously have chosen not to this time. As is often the case with teachers, they have made this decision because they are putting the needs of their classes before their own views. This has not been an easy decision for them. I’m sure you would join me in thanking them for this.

While our teachers have made the decision to be in school, I wanted to extend support to the ongoing dispute. Our teachers work incredibly hard, and I say that without diminishing the hard work of other professions. Teachers are leaving the profession in large numbers. Our children deserve the best quality teachers, our future needs them! Without funding, schools are having to make difficult decisions about staffing and resources. We are concerned for our education system and without a change it will end in:

- Not enough teachers
- Not enough money in schools
- Buildings in a state of disrepair
- Demoralised workforce
- The loss of goodwill that keeps things going

We want to remain open for the children—we know that every minute counts. But we do want the government to fund schools properly, and pay teachers fairly so that we can give our children the very best teachers, provision and environment.

As per DFE guidance, schools are expected to remain open wherever possible, but only if there are sufficient staff available to do so safely. Whilst this will vary from school to school, it seems certain that the vast majority of schools will be affected again.

Those striking in other schools 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 keep all parents up to date if there are developments which emerge or any changes to those details between now and Wednesday 5 July 2023

Kind Regards,

Sarah Kent

Headteacher





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