

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Strike Action: school closure on Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 and Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023**

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU -the largest teaching union in England) is taking further strike action on Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and school funding, and not because of any issues at our school. The NEU has demanded a pay increase from the government which is at least in line with inflation and which is fully-funded (meaning that this does not need to come out of a school's existing budget).

Strike action is by nature disruptive, and while the striking members acknowledge that their action creates pressure on families, it is done in order to safeguard educational quality, to ensure standards for staff and children are protected now and in the future. In taking strike action, staff are sacrificing their pay. At a time of financial tension, this sacrifice is not taken lightly. Striking staff are hoping that the action will encourage progress in the negotiation process. As the Headteacher of the school, I have to determine the number of striking staff members on each of these days to ensure that the effective and safe provision of education continues to be achieved. I will consider each day in advance.

Therefore, I am getting in touch today to give you as much notice as possible of the strike dates, and I would advise that you start to make provisional alternative childcare arrangements for these dates. So, with this in mind, I can confirm that 19 teachers have indicated that they may take strike action on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**. The school and Nursery **will be closed** to all pupils on both days.

I am sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education and I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Morningside remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching and learning. On days when the school is closed due to industrial action online learning will be made available by senior leaders.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards  
Jo Smith  
Headteacher



