

Teacher Strikes Spring Term: What Does it Mean?

Dear Parents and Families,

Many of you will have seen on the news that *'teachers have voted to strike'*. I wanted to share what that means and any possible impact so that you can plan and make arrangements. The strikes are planned in relation to two areas: teacher pay and lack of funding in schools.

Does this mean school will be closed? Not all teachers will take action. Only one teaching union had enough votes to make a strike legal – the National Education Union. This means it does not impact every teacher in your child's school.

Strike action may be cancelled but we need to plan for all possible outcomes. There are four dates which **could** impact your child, but this does not mean that schools will be closed.

- **1 February (whole country strike)**
- **2 March (London, South East, South West)**
- **15 March (whole country strike)**
- **16 March (whole country strike)**

Do teachers have to tell you in advance if they are striking? Teachers do not have to inform us in advance if they are taking action. However, many of our teachers have volunteered their intentions to ensure that there is minimal disruption to children. It is important to note that teachers have the right to change their minds and they do not have to inform us until the morning of action. Teachers are not paid if they take industrial action.

Will we have remote learning? In this situation we are not allowed to direct other teachers to cover. This means we may have to shut down your child's class. This also means that we cannot set remote learning if your child's teacher is taking industrial action. We will endeavour to keep schools open.

Why would you close a class? Any closures of classes are based purely on health and safety and our ability to ensure all children remain safe.

What do we need to think about as parents? Your Headteacher is currently risk assessing and planning and will be writing to inform you if your school or child's class is going to be impacted. However, whatever plans we put in place are subject to change if a teacher decided to strike without telling us.

We ask you to make a note of those four dates and consider a plan just in case your child's class is affected.

When will we know more? I hope that this information helps and please look out for a letter, next week, from your child's Headteacher which will give you as much advance planning and information as possible. However, I stress, we can only plan based on what we know and there could be last minute disruption which you will need to consider and think about also.

Kind regards,
Tracey Cleverly - Trust Lead



West Alvington C of E Academy
West Alvington, Kingsbridge,
Devon, TQ7 3PP
T: 01548 312290 **E:** westalvington@lapsw.org
W: westalvington-lap.co.uk



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