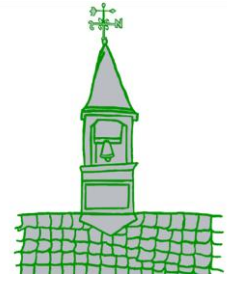




"Together we can"

# Fakenham Primary Federation



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Executive Headteacher: Adam Mason

Be the best YOU can be

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## NEU Strike update: 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents/Carers,

Currently, the NEU are still calling on their members to take industrial action next Wednesday and Thursday on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions, which is still not resolved; it is not because of any issues at our school.

Based on the information I currently have and the further staffing implications the possible strikes create, I have made the following provisional decisions for Fakenham Primary Federation:

**Fakenham Infant and Nursery School: The school will be OPEN for Nursery provision, Y1 and Y2. Reception will be CLOSED for both days.**

**Fakenham Junior School: The school will be fully CLOSED for both days.**

**Before School Club and After School Club will remain open for children who are attending school on those days. However, both will be held in the green room at FINS.**

As before, the closure of year groups does not mean that every teacher is on strike, hence when making these decisions I have had to consider:

- staff I know who intend to strike
- staff, who to this point, have not made their intention known
- other staff absences (suitable cover for the day is restricted or not available)
- the impact on the strikes to other staff (who are not striking) meaning they cannot or may not be able to attend, this impacts our ability to have safe provision in place

Staff cannot be compelled to cover classes or pupils of striking staff and all education unions (teaching and support staff) have issued guidance and advice for members informing them that should not agree to do this. I am also following advice and guidance from my own professional body. This means that rotating the affected year groups is difficult. I recognise that the impacts might seem unfair but this is because it is just one of the teaching unions that is legally able to 'take action' at present. The choice to 'take action' or not is a personal decision and staff have the right to do different things on different days of industrial action.

I have discussed this decision with Synergy Multi-Academy Trust and the Local Governing Board of the two schools.

Staff intending to strike cannot be asked to set learning for the day and other teaching unions have made it clear that their members cannot be compelled to do this. I would like to remind you that BBC Bitesize has lots of learning activities for children to enjoy, spending time reading (including MyOn in FJS) is valuable. Games involving dice are good for early counting (reception), Timetables Rockstars, My Maths and SATS Companion is also available (for FJS pupils).

**We will continue to monitor the situation both nationally and locally. We will confirm any class closures as soon as we have confirmed information – like last time, this may be the morning of the strikes.**

With regards,

Adam Mason