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Headteacher

Mrs Nicola O'Connell BA (Hons) MEd (Cantab)

20.1.23

Dear Holtsmere families,

You will have no doubt seen in the media that the National Education Union (NEU) has announced national and regional strike action for teachers in England. The first being on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**.

As the Headteacher, I am required by the Department of Education 'to take all reasonable steps to keep the school open for as many pupils as possible' and I intend to do this whilst insuring the safety of your children. However, I have been informed by **ALL** of our teachers that they will be striking on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**. Our teachers are predominantly striking because of funding allocations to school and the lack of fair pay for support staff. As well as having a duty to keep the school open on this day, I mainly have to consider if the children will be safe in school with the staffing numbers available.

Therefore on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**

- **Nursery will remain closed (The DFE stipulates that Nursery MUST have a teacher and we won't be able to provide this)**
- **Reception, Years 1 and 2 will be open for children with a 1:1 support (Their usual allocated support will be available), all children who qualify for the Pupil Premium Grant and children whose parents are employed by the NHS, Nursery and teaching staff, Social workers, Police and support staff, fire and rescue, justice system, food – including production and sale, waste disposal workers**

We are not required to teach the National Curriculum on this day. We will be providing engaging activities for all children.

If your child falls into one or more of the categories above we expect them to be in school on the 1st February. However, as we are largely unaware of all of our parent's employment types we kindly ask that log into your child's profile on Arbor and confirm your child's attendance. Please could you confirm this by 9am Tuesday 24th January.

This is a difficult situation for all concerned and I appreciate your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Nicola O'Connell Headteacher

