

25.01.23

National Education Union Strike Action

Dear parents and carers

We have been officially informed by the National Education Union (NEU) that they will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1st February 2023
- Wednesday 1st March 2023
- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

As I am sure you are aware, this action is not against the school but is part of national industrial action organised by the NEU regarding teacher pay and school funding. Our school has a large number of teachers who are members of the National Education Union.

Using the information that we have at the moment, we have taken the difficult decision to close Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 on the first day of the strikes, Wednesday 1st February.

Pupils in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 should not come to school. Access to online learning will be added to the children's Google Classrooms. We will make sure they are reminded of their log in details – most will already have these in their school planners.

Closing Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 does not necessarily mean that it is the teachers from these teams that are striking. This is a strategic decision based on pupil numbers and our health and safety risk assessment.

If your child is in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6, we may still contact you and ask that your child attends school. This could be linked to a particular learning need your child has.

If your child is in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 and parents and carers are critical workers (both parents and carers if you are **not** a single parent family) – please email the school info@riverbankprimary.org with your request to send your child in on 1st February (with accompanying evidence). You must do this before 10:00am on Monday 30th January. A list of critical workers can be found on the next page.

If your child is in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 and is entitled to a free school dinner – we can still provide this by way of a packed lunch that can be collected from school. Please email info@riverbankprimary.org by 10:00 on Friday 27th January if you would like us to arrange a free school packed lunch for collection on the day between 12:00 and 13:00.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, they should attend as normal – even if they have a sibling in one of the affected year groups.

Any clubs or activities happening on this day are cancelled. Breakfast club and the paid after school club will run as normal.

We will contact you again prior to the next day of planned strikes (Wednesday 1st March) and let you know if there will be any ongoing disruption.

Best wishes

David Sansom

River Bank Primary School, Bath Road, Luton LU3 1ES

Telephone: 01582 531860 Email: info@riverbankprimary.org Web: www.riverbankprimary.org

Active Education Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales Registered Office: Floor 2, Apex House, 30-34 Upper George Street, Luton, LU1 2RD

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List of Critical Workers

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during an emergency response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- an emergency response
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits including in government agencies and Arm's length bodies (ALB).
- Food and other necessary goods
- This includes those involved in food:
 - production
 - processing
 - distribution
 - sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to an emergency response)

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- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during an emergency response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity, and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during an emergency response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

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