



## SCHOOL CLOSURE THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> April and TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you about the forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions, and the impact this will have on our school. There are two further strike days planned:

- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

As a school, we must consider the impact that industrial action will have on the operation of the school. One of the key issues is to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike. When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. This means that those teachers involved in the action will not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties on a strike day. I have undertaken a thorough risk assessment to consider all our options.

We do have members of our school staff in this union, and it is their individual right to decide whether they wish to strike or not. As a headteacher, I have no legal right to ask the staff about their intentions. I did, however ask them if they were willing to indicate to me their decision. **With the information I have currently**, I can inform you that:

- **BARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL will be CLOSED ON 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 for all classes.**
- **The Nest @ Barden will be OPEN on both days**
- **Year 3 WILL still attend their trip on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May so need to come to school at the usual time.**

**We will provide childcare provision for children of critical workers and those defined as vulnerable under the DfE guidance. Please email [enquiries@barden.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@barden.lancs.sch.uk) to book a place for your child.**

**Free School Meals** – if your child is in receipt of Free School Meals (PPG) we will send a link today to a form for you to order a lunch for the strike days for your child. You will receive this link

by text. If you choose to order a lunch, you will need to collect it from school on the day of the strike between 11-12.

**Home Learning will be sent home today with children that are in classes not affected by the strike.**

**Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the days that they are on strike. The NEU has posted a document for parents/carers that explains their reasons for taking strike action. It can be found at <https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view> if you wish to read it.**

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Kind regards,

Mrs Holgate

Headteacher