



## Highfield Middle School

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Headteacher: Richard Oades

21<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Teacher Strikes

You are probably aware that the National Educational Union are planning a further 2 days of teacher strikes. The first of these is next **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April**, then again on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**, following Bank Holiday Monday. School will be open as normal on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Once again, we expect a significant number of our teaching staff to be on strike and we respect their legal right to do so. Of course, the government stance on Teacher's pay and educational funding could change over the coming days, which could therefore influence what happens. However, we expect the days will run in the same way that they did on the previous strike days in February and March.

School will be closed to most pupils, with the following exceptions:

#### **School will be OPEN to:**

- Year 6 pupils
- Children with a Social Worker
- Children with an EHCP
- Children of Critical Workers - Parents/carers who are have the following roles only: Frontline NHS / emergency services staff / Teachers. Critical Worker places **MUST** be agreed in advance by emailing details to [admin@highfield.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highfield.northumberland.sch.uk) by 12 noon on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

We are very aware that Year 6 pupils have been asked repeatedly to attend during the strikes, when other pupils are at home. With this in mind, **pupils in school can attend in sensible Sporty Non-Uniform (or PE kit)**, so they are ready for physical activity as well as SATs preparation. We'll make the day fun as well as educational!

Pupils who are not attending can access learning resources from home at the following websites:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

They can also enjoy reading their (Accelerated Reader) school book or a book from home. Year 5 pupils can also access their usual Doodle Maths/Doodle Tables online.

If your child is entitled to a place in school, they should attend. If they will be absent on the day, please follow the usual absence procedures and inform the school.

If your child is not in school on the day, but entitled to Free School Meals, they can take a packed lunch home the day before each strike. Please order via email ([admin@highfield.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highfield.northumberland.sch.uk)) by 12 noon on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, stating your child's name and their preference for either a cheese, ham or tuna sandwich, so that we have time to organise this.

Regards

Richard Oades

Headteacher