



## Pondhu Primary School

Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DS

Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Cliff

T: 01726 74550 [www.pondhu.eschools.co.uk](http://www.pondhu.eschools.co.uk)

20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Planned strike action at Pondhu Primary School: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

I'm writing to give you as much notice as possible about our arrangements for Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 to enable you to arrange alternative childcare where needed.

#### **Background**

We have had confirmation from the NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike which will take place on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**. The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teachers and school staff pay. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain the dispute and to also outline the school's plans during the strike.

#### **What is the dispute which has led to the strike?**

As you may know, teaching unions across England and Scotland, including the NEU, are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers' pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living.

#### **What will happen at the school during the strike?**

We have conducted a risk assessment to assess how we can manage the school safely for staff and students during this period of industrial action. Given the staffing levels we believe we will have on the day, we have taken the difficult decision to close the school to most children on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**.

This means that:

- The school will be open for pupils in **YEAR 6 ONLY**
- The school will be CLOSED to ALL OTHER PUPILS in EYFS and Years 1 to 5 on the above dates.
- Home learning information will be shared via email next week.

#### **Picket lines**

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person and they may be holding notice boards or banners. If this is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to inform all students and parents that, as a Trust, we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are as courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

I would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line. We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these arrangements, as we appreciate that any closure or partial closure is disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.





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I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with politeness and respect. Pondhu Primary School remains committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for everyone.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to **all** staff at Pondhu Primary School.

If you have any questions, please contact the school as usual: [secretary@pon.celtrust.org](mailto:secretary@pon.celtrust.org)

Yours sincerely

Rachel Clift  
Headteacher



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