

Moss Bury Primary School and Nursery

Webb Rise
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 5PA
Tel: 01438 222 300
e-Mail : admin@mossbury.herts.sch.uk
website: www.mossbury.herts.sch.uk



Headteachers: Michael Dean and Callum Newbury

26th January 2023

Dear Parents,

As you are probably aware, the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to strike for four days as a part of their on-going disagreement with Government around pay, conditions and funding.

We have now received further guidance on these days, which we would like to share with you before explaining our plans for those days.

Key Information about the strike days

The full list of projected strike days are as follows:

Wednesday 1st February 2023

Wednesday 1st March 2023 (This is a different date to our last communication)

Wednesday 15th March 2023

Thursday 16th March 2023

- There is no requirement for staff to inform us of their decision to strike, in common with any employee involved in a legal dispute.
- If your child is unable to attend, their attendance record will not be negatively impacted if they are unable to attend the school due to industrial action. This will be recorded as *exceptional circumstances*.
- Schools are free to provide non-curriculum, flexible activities on those days. This means that if your child attends school, they may not be supervised by their class teacher or working on the curriculum in lessons.
- Leadership is unable to demand that a teacher who is working (maybe because they are in a different union) to cover other classes.
- Pupils eligible for benefit-related free school meals will be able to collect a meal from the school, though this will probably be a packed lunch because of food safety restrictions.
- A member of the leadership team needs to be in attendance for the school to open.
- It is the headteacher's decision as to whether the school should close for all children on a strike day.

What we plan to do on these days

The leadership are supportive of our colleagues' actions. However, no member of staff at Moss Bury (including teachers who are taking action) wish to negatively affect vulnerable children or prevent critical workers from attending work, with all the effects that would have for the wider community. Therefore, members of the leadership will be on site for those days, to allow Moss Bury to partially open.

We understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Moss Bury Primary School & Nursery remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching. We also know that there will be increasing media attention regarding this issue and would urge you to understand the reasons for the strike action. Whether or not you support strike action, it is important that you are aware that there is a very real crisis of funding, recruitment and retention of teachers and this is having a significant impact on our school, just as it is across the country.

What we plan to do and what you should do:

- Open our Nursery and Reception classes to allow a continuation of education for our youngest children. The importance of which was underlined during the Covid period. **You Should:** if your child is in Nursery or Reception then you should bring your child to school and collect as normal.
- The school will prioritise the remaining places by applying the principles set out in the '[emergency planning and response guidance](#)' by giving priority to [vulnerable children](#) (page 21) and [young people and children of critical workers](#) (pages 22-23).
- **You Should:** Read the guidance to see if you qualify as a critical worker and you want your child(ren) to attend school. Then write us an email with the subject: **CRITICAL WORKER** to request a place. The email address for this application is criticalworker@mossbury.herts.sch.uk.

Please send your email, making your application **by 9:00am on Monday 30th January**. Please note, there is no need to do this if your child attends Nursery or Reception.

Once we have the number of applications, we will carry out a risk assessment and let you know if we can safely accept your child.

You Should: If your child is offered a place, please bring and collect them as normal, from the same location.

- Breakfast and Mossy After School Club will run as usual for those children who have booked on and have been allocated a place in school on strike days. For those parents who have booked and paid for sessions and whose children have not been allocated a place in school on strike days, their children's accounts will be credited for these sessions.
- We shall be offering non-curriculum activities for the day with the children being supervised by members of staff.
- Our kitchen will be open so that all the children who attend school on that day will receive meals as usual. However, if your child is not attending and is entitled to Benefit related Free School Meals (FSM) and you would like a packed lunch for them, **You Should:** email us and ask for a packed lunch to be provided for you. You will need to email: admin@mossbury.herts.sch.uk with the subject **FSM ORDER**; this must be sent

by 9:00am Monday 30th January. We would like to offer a hot meal but are restricted in what we can offer due to various restrictions. On the strike day you will need to pick up the lunch you have ordered between 11:00am and 1:00pm.

Home Learning

In light of our school being closed, we are pleased to direct parents to plenty of work that children can still complete at home, if required. We have provided some weblinks below:

1) Firstly, Mossy Explorer!

2) Oak National Academy has lessons browsable by subject and age.
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/>

3) Archived Home Learning on the Moss Bury website. Organised by year group, all of the home learning set during the pandemic remains online:
<https://www.mossbury.herts.sch.uk/kids-corner/archived-home-learning>

4) White Rose Maths. Our Mathematics Curriculum has an entire suite of home learning videos that can be independently accessed by children. Search by year group and use the New Scheme, and then click on the block for which you would like to see videos. All children have completed the Place Value and Addition and Subtraction blocks for the Autumn Term so revision of these would be extremely useful. <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning>

5) Hit The Button. Practice number facts (Early Years & Key Stage 1) or Times Tables and Division Facts (Key Stage 2): <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Finally

Please note that this is a fluid and changeable situation, if there are any changes, we shall keep you updated.

If you have any questions at all, please contact one of us and we shall do our best to answer them.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Dean & Mr Newbury
Headteachers