

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Strike Action**

I am writing to you following my letter last week informing you that the National Education Union has voted to arrange a series of strikes, in protest of teachers' pay and conditions and school funding. The majority of the teachers at Kilmorie are members of the NEU (National Education Union). As is the right of the union members, I have not been informed as to which members of staff are taking industrial action. As a result, the school will be closed to all year groups on Wednesday 1st February. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our children and feel we are unable to plan to be able to provide this on strike days.

I am sure that you will understand that our dedicated and hard-working teachers have not taken this decision lightly. The NEU explain: *"This is not about a pay rise but correcting historic real-terms pay cuts. Teachers have lost 23% in real-terms since 2010, and support staff 27% over the same period. The average 5% pay rise for teachers this year is some 7% behind inflation. In the midst of a cost of living crisis, that is an unsustainable situation."*

Part of the current pay offer has NOT been funded by central government, and will have to be found in the school's existing budget. This will have a direct impact on the provision at Kilmorie and our pupils and staff. Whilst we are aware of the inconvenience that the strike will cause families, teachers across the UK are asking the Government to listen to their concerns and reconsider their stance to protect education, and enhance the recruitment and retention of teachers.

The Senior Leadership Team and the governors have agreed to identify our vulnerable children and families who will be offered support. However, if you are not contacted by the end of this week (Friday), and feel that your child not being in school puts you and your family in a vulnerable position, you need to email either me at [headteacher@kilmorie.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@kilmorie.lewisham.sch.uk) or Nicola at [safeguarding@kilmorie.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kilmorie.lewisham.sch.uk).

Teachers will not be providing school work on Strike days. However, if you would like learning activities, please be directed to The [Oak Academy resources](#) or [Primary Home work help](#) or [BBC Bitesize](#)

The Senior Leadership team and governors are working closely with our union representatives to keep up to date with the situation and I will inform you as soon as possible of our plans for the second scheduled strike day.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Loffstadt  
Headteacher