

# Willow Dene School

Swingate Lane, Plumstead, London, SE18 2JD

Tel: 020 8854 9841

Email: [wdcontact@willowdene.compassps.uk](mailto:wdcontact@willowdene.compassps.uk)

Website: [www.willowdene.compassps.uk](http://www.willowdene.compassps.uk)

**Head Teacher:**

Rachel Harrison

**Deputy Head Teachers:**

Claire Barnes, Claire Bayfield and Emma Bennett



8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Industrial Action Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

As you know from the newsletter and parent's briefing, we are approaching the final days in this National Education Union series of strikes. The next planned strikes will be Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

During the second strike on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, we saw an increase in numbers of staff taking part in the strike action. In addition, a large number of support staff were affected because of the action in their own child's school. There was also the impact of two picket lines at Willow Dene which significantly reduced our support staff capacity. As you know, this affected all classes. The implication of this was that having appropriate ratios in classes, having the right availability of skills and competencies in the right places, and making sure that we could be safe in case of an emergency was not possible.

We know that on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March we will have a record number of staff taking industrial action because it is budget day and because staff from lots of different sectors have planned action on the same day. For this reason, school will be closed to children on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at Swingate Lane and Oakmere Road.

Whilst school will largely be closed to children on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, we know that for some of you having your child at home for two days together will present significant challenges. With this in mind, if you feel that you are unable to have your child at home on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, please contact the school office by telephone before 12.30pm on Friday and ask to speak to Barbara Box, and we will try to help.

As staff do not need to declare whether they are or are not taking strike action, our ability to make firm plans in advance is limited. We will need to use the information we have from last time as a starting point and can make a rough plan for the day. If you do request school for your child on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, this may not be possible due to the need for the right skills match. We will aim to let you know at the beginning of next week. Our plans could also change on the day if our staffing is not as expected which would result in us asking you to collect your child if we did not have enough staff to safely accommodate them. Your child could be in a different class or classroom to their usual class and could be with adults who are different to their usual adults. The day would be planned with play based activities rather than educational activities where teachers are striking as we are unable to use other staff to cover the work of teachers.

We know this is a lot of information however, think that it is better for you to have all of the facts as far in advance as possible. We very much appreciate your support and understanding throughout the last two months and hope that this letter and the parent briefings mean that you know we are being as honest and transparent with you as possible and that you are aware of the full complexities.

If you would like to do any work with your child while they are not at school on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023, we recommend the resources on Oak National Academy website which can be found at [Specialist lessons - Oak National Academy \(the national.academy\)](#). These resources are specially designed for children who attend special schools.

We can confirm that at the moment there are no further plans for industrial action by teaching unions.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Harrison  
Head Teacher