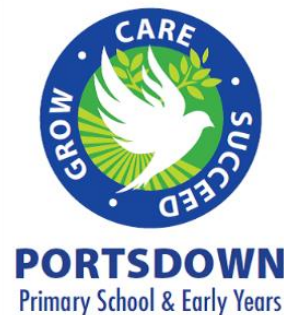


Portsdown Primary School and Early Years
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Headteacher: Mr A Vaghela

23rd January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

This letter contains important information about possible strike action and changes to the school day from September 2023.

Possible Strike Information

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU teaching union has declared strike action, which will take place on 1st February, 2nd March, 15th March and 16th March. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government about the amount of funding allocated to schools and teacher pay over a long period of time, and not because of any issues at our school.

This may or may not affect our school.

I'm getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible that learning may be disrupted on the dates above. Under Union and Government rules teachers do not have to tell me if they intend to strike or not. Saying that, all of the teachers here care for your children and want to give you as much notice as possible. Some teachers may currently be undecided on what they want to do. We're considering several options to minimise the disruption caused.

We recommend that you start to make alternative childcare arrangements for these dates.

I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Portsdown remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you of the final arrangements as soon as possible.

To contact you we will use Studybugs, our website and Facebook pages.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

FROM SEPTEMBER 2023

In this section I am writing to you first to let you know about plans to extend the school day from September 2023 so we are open from **8.45am to 3.15pm**.

Some of you may know that the Government published a 'White Paper' early last year which was due to go through Parliament but late last year they decided to scrap it. However, the Government, along with Ofsted, are still driving forward some of the actions from the legislation.

One of these actions was the expectation that all schools should provide at least 32 and a half hours of schooling per week by September 2023. Currently our 8.45am to 3pm timetable only offers 31 hours and 15 minutes. We are short by 15 minutes each day. In addition, we have one of the shortest school days in the City.

There will be many things this affects including staffing, budgets and our Nursery. Due to how the Nursery is funded, they will keep the same opening times meaning that anyone with a child in Nursery and the main school will need to collect the Nursery child first.

I welcome any feedback from parents around this matter. Please come and see any of the senior leaders on the drive in the morning or drop me a note.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ash Vaghela,
Headteacher