

Portsmouth Primary School and Early Years
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Headteacher: Mr A Vaghela

22nd April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware from my previous communications, the membership of the NEU voted to take further industrial action in schools across our region and the country.

The next possible strike days are on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May.

Year 6, our Inclusion Centre (PIC) and our Nursery will definitely be open on both days. 2BR will be open on the first strike day. As soon as I find out about other classes I will let you know.

You may want to start to consider alternative child care for these dates and make arrangements for any last minute changes.

If classes are open, attendance is mandatory.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain why some teachers are taking strike action as some of what has been reported has been inaccurate.

- In real terms, the Institute for Fiscal Studies has reported Teachers pay has gone down by 11% between 2010 and 2022. During the same period Nurses pay has gone down by 10% and Police by 9%.
- The NEU has argued that pay rises for teachers is not fully funded so this will have to be taken from existing school budgets resulting in less money to spend on children
- There is a workforce recruitment problem. Research by the NEU 44% of teachers plan to leave schools altogether by 2027, with 52% saying their workload is 'unmanageable'. The Guardian newspaper has reported that a third of teachers who qualified in the last 10 years have left the profession

As a school we want to recruit and retain the best possible staff to teach and care for your children. Some teachers may choose to go on strike, which is their legal right, to try and protect the future of their profession and your children.

Unions and Government are not publically discussing a resolution at the moment so I have no way of knowing what will happen next but as soon as I receive any new information, I will let you know via Studybugs, the school website and our School Facebook Pages.

A few of our Key dates for this term:

Wednesday 26 th April	Selected children from our Makaton Choir to 'Life and Chimes' at Fratton Park
Thursday 27 th April	Possible Strike day. For children in classes open, attendance is mandatory
Friday 28 th April	Red, White and Blue day for King's coronation. Children can come in dressed in Red, white and blue and take part in Coronation activities in their classrooms
Monday 1 st May	Bank holiday
Tuesday 2 nd May	Possible Strike day. For children in classes open, attendance is mandatory
Throughout May	Year 2 SATs
Friday 5 th May	Special menu day for Coronation – British fish and chips or Vegetarian cheese sausage and chips.
Monday 8 th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 th May to Friday 12 th May	Year 6 SATs
Tuesday 16 th May	Year 2 trip to Testwood lakes
Thursday 18 th May	Census day
Week starting 22 nd May	KS2 Sports days – exact dates and times to be sent out shortly
Week starting Monday 29 th May	Half term
Monday 5 th June	INSET day
From 6 th June	Start of Year 4 x tables tests and Year 1 phonics tests
Between 6 th June and 9 th June	Nursery, Year R and KS1 Sports days – exact dates and times to be sent out shortly
Thursday 15 th June	Year 2 to Historic Dockyard
Friday 23 rd June	Year 4 to Butser Ancient farm – information to follow shortly
Week of 26 th June	Year 6 Bikability
Week starting 3 rd July	Transition – both in school and year 6 to secondary school. More information to follow
5 th , 6 th and 7 th July	Year 6 Activity days
Monday 10 th July	School reports out
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term
<i>Please remember that from September 2023, School will finish at 3.15pm</i>	

Dates still to be confirmed: Summer fair and school disco. We really want to run a school disco but need your help. If you think you can support with either the summer fair or the school disco, please see Mrs Blades.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and your child's education.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Vaghela, Headteacher