Friday 24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Continued Strike Action on Thursday 2nd March 2023**

Further to strike action that took place on 1st February 2023, I am writing to update you that the next strike day on 2nd March 2023 will continue to go ahead as planned whilst the Department for Education and Teaching Unions continue their discussions.

In partnership with our school staff and the wider Trust, we continue to review and assess if we can keep the school open during any strike action. In order to open the school, we have to be certain that we can appropriately safeguard the children and ensure there are enough staff to provide a safe learning environment.

We have followed the advice and guidance issued by the Department for Education and updated our risk assessments based on the last strike day to assess whether the school can safely operate as normal under strike circumstances.

I am writing to inform you that following these assessments, we have taken the decision to **close the school** on **Thursday 2nd March 2023.** However, should anything change and the strikes are paused meaning the school can open we will communicate this as soon as we are able.

We are taking this decision only for 2nd March 2023, for the other strike days proposed on 15th and 16th March 2023 we will continue to assess and review the circumstances before making any decisions. This will be shared with you as soon as we are able.

Please note, we will not be providing online learning on this day, but if you are able to, you can support your children with the following activities:

* Enjoy a book or two with your child and add more miles to their Reading Passport!
* Write a 100 word blog about your favourite book
* Practise the times tables by logging into Times Tables Rockstars TTR [Times Tables Rock Stars: Play (ttrockstars.com)](https://play.ttrockstars.com/)
* Design a poster to share your favourite hobby with others
* [Free primary and secondary school teaching resources - BBC Teach](https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach)
* [Primary Homework Help | Online Games For Kids - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary)
* Choose an activity linked to this terms learning from the Spring 2 Parent Overviews – copies available on the school website here: [Year Group Planning Overviews - Willow Bank Primary School](https://www.willowbankprimaryschool.co.uk/our-curriculum/year-group-planning-overviews/)
* Practice phonics at home using the Little Wandle parent support videos: [For parents - Letters and Sounds (littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk)](https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/)
* Enjoy a PE lesson with Joe Wicks: [Joe Wicks' Daily PE Lesson - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0kdTyVEX-wKPwxH6Eil7i2F3lTkdqaud)
* Create interesting artwork at home [Families | Royal Academy of Arts](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/families?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIsdz_n4Pm_AIV84BQBh0XLAxnEAAYAiAAEgJXSfD_BwE#art-activities-for-families) and [Arts and Crafts for Kids: Easy ideas from Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znxmjsg?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=crafts)

For parents who qualify for Free School Meals, based on your eligibility, we will be offering packed lunches which can be ordered by emailing the school office by **3:30pm** on **Monday 27th February** WBPoffice@watschools.org.uk or by completing and returning the slip below. Packed lunches must be collected from the school office reception between **12:00 and 1:30pm** on Thursday 2nd March.

We would like to thank you for your co-operation and understanding whilst we all work as a community together.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the school office or speak to leaders on the gate.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Oldfield

Headteacher

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**NEU Strike Action Day : Thursday 2nd March 2023**

My child is eligible for Free School Meals and I would like to request a packed lunch for my child

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I understand I will need to collect the lunch between **12:00 and 1:30pm** on **Thursday 2nd March**

from the school office.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Child:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return slip by 3:30pm on Monday 27th February to ensure a lunch is prepared for your child, thank you.**