



Be the best you can be

Christleton Primary School

Quarry Lane  
Christleton  
Chester  
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01244 455288

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

### Corridor Creation!

As you may be aware, all children have been working on a whole school project using different texts but a common theme of refugees. Over the past week, the teachers have been busy putting the children's work up in the corridor. The children are rightly proud of their work and we are very much looking forward to showing the corridor off to you over the coming weeks.

### Planned Strike Action

As mentioned previously, the strike action is a complex and fast-moving situation, which requires the school to have obtained all the relevant information; guidance documents, legal considerations, local authority information and the intentions of the member staff (if they choose to share). They are entitled not to disclose their position should they wish).



The school's response has to accord with the law and acknowledge the responsibilities of the school whilst also acknowledging the legitimacy of the industrial action taking place.

Based on the facts provided to me, **all year groups will be able to attend school as normal on the 1<sup>st</sup> February.**

Please note that it should not be assumed that this will be the case for the remaining proposed strike days (Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March). These days will be handled individually and we will endeavour to communicate arrangements prior to the dates.

There is a lot of misunderstanding regarding the strike action, to explain more fully the reasoning behind the strike, and provide the answers to some questions you may have, I have included a FAQ at the end of this letter.



**31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

Writing Evening

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

Library bus visiting school.

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

Edge Transport truck visiting EYFS.

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

PCSO visiting EYFS.

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Internet Safety Day.

**16<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

PTA Valentine's Disco.

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Languages Day.

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

School closes for February half term.

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

School re-opens.

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

World Book Day.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

Fire engine to visit EYFS.

**13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Science week.



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@christletonpri

## Writing Evening

A reminder that we are holding a writing evening on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. The aim of this evening is to provide you with an understanding of how we teach writing, share the expectations of each year group and provide ideas to help support children at home. For further information, please see the letter sent out 22<sup>nd</sup> January. This can be accessed using the link below. We hope to see you there.

[https://www.christletonprimaryschool.co.uk/serve\\_file/10823255](https://www.christletonprimaryschool.co.uk/serve_file/10823255)



## Mid-day vacancy

 We are still in the position of advertising for a mid-day assistant. Should you be interested in this position, or know anyone who might be, please get in touch with the school as soon as possible.

## PTA – Thank You!

A big thank you to the PTA for their organisation of the Charity Quiz Night at the Ring O' Bells. The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all. The event raised just over £800, which is a fantastic amount. Thank you to all of those who took part and supported the event.

A big well done to the winning team (It was a teacher's team!).

## Recent Letters



Theme	Method	Recipients	Date
Writing Evening	App and Email	All	22.01.23
Strike action	App and Email	All	24.01.23



Kind regards,

*Mr Mitchell*



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## Strike Action FAQ

Please see the FAQ below. We wanted to provide you with some background behind the planned strike action, as we are aware that there is some confusion regarding the reasons for the strikes and the impact that there may be.

### Why did NEU members vote to strike?

Teachers care strongly about children's education, and the NEU teacher members have voted to strike over the following:

- **Pay has fallen by 20% since 2010.** During this period teachers and school staff have consistently been asked to do 'more for less'
- When **pay awards** have been granted by the government it has **not been fully funded**. This means it has to be **taken from the schools existing budget creating more pressure on school finances**.
- **Teacher retention** is in crisis.
- Teacher **workload has increased significantly** over time.
- **Funding for schools is under increasing pressure** year on year. For all schools this means **fewer support staff, fewer resources, reduced ability to maintain and repair buildings** and teachers providing resources out of their own pocket (which all do on a regular basis).
- **Funding to support the most vulnerable and those with special needs is insufficient.**

### If teachers strike, are they paid?

- **No**, teachers are not paid for strike days.

### Based on current information, Christleton Primary School is likely to be open on the 1<sup>st</sup> February. Will this be the case for the other days as well?

- **Each day will be treated separately**, as teachers may make a different decision. It would be **wise to consider your contingency plan** should the school need to close in the future.

### Why has the school not made the position clearer earlier?

- The decision to strike is not taken lightly by any teacher. The decision is also a private one and one that they do not have to share should they wish not to. They also have the right to change their mind.

Rather than cause confusion or make assumptions the school has tried to provide information when the position of the staff has been clear, whilst respecting the rights of the individual and meeting its legal requirements.



## Why are some schools opening and some closing?

- **Each school will be in a unique position** depending on the number of teachers who are members of the NEU and those who choose to strike. Decisions therefore are made at the school level based on the number of staff indicating that they will be in, or those indicating that they may be on strike. The safety of the children is the key concern here, if there is not adequate staffing to ensure the safety of the children, then the school or class may be closed.

## What about other unions?

- Other unions have balloted their members
- In the NASUWT most members voted in support of strike action (88.5%) but there was not the turnout required for the action to be valid.
- The NAHT also voted in support of strike action but again this was not the turnout required for the action to be valid. For this union the ballot took place via post and significant postal delays are being cited as a reason the threshold was not met.

