

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

Dear parents/carers,

You will be aware that there have been two further days of national strike action declared by the NEU on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay. The potential effect will not be restricted to our school, but the impact on each school will differ.

We are getting in touch to give you further information about our arrangements for these days. When making decisions, we have had to consider union membership, staffing levels and how we can ensure the health and safety of our pupils in school.

The school will be open for pupils in the following year groups for the particular days:

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July: Year 10 (all day) and Year 12 (periods 1-3)**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July: Year 7 (all day) and Year 12 (all day)**

Vulnerable pupils in Y7, 8, 9 and 10 will also be invited to attend where capacity allows.

Pupils in school may not be able to attend their normal lessons so we ask that they bring with them their **PE kit and a reading book**.

Pupils who have not been invited to attend will need to remain at home on those days. For pupils not in school, we are not able to provide work for each lesson as the closure is part of an industrial dispute and the withdrawal of a person's labour or professional services on that day, however there are resources already available on Firefly for pupils to engage with under the Resources tab, Subjects menu. There are other online resources available for pupils to access for home study such as [Oak Academy](#), [BBC Bitesize](#), [Seneca](#) and [Hegarty Maths](#). There may well be specific tasks also set for pupils on Firefly or home learning to catch up on.

There may be a picket of striking staff outside the front of the school gates. As was the case last time, we have been assured that this will not prevent the safe passage of staff, pupils and visitors to the school but you may wish to share this information with your child, if they are expected to attend, so they are not surprised. There will be non-striking staff present at the school gates on each morning.

Please note that buses will run as normal on both days for those pupils who need to attend, and the canteen will be open as usual. There will be no co-curricular clubs available on these days.

Vouchers will be provided for pupils in receipt of free school meals for whom school is not open. These will be distributed digitally as was the case on previous occasions.

We are sorry that some of you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child. We understand that this situation may be frustrating and we thank you for your support and understanding.

*An education for life*

**Headteacher** Mr E. Goddard  
**Chair of Governors** Mrs S. Farrimond

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We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and we will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

Yours sincerely,

Mr E Goddard  
Headteacher

Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy