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Strike Action by Members of the NEU – National Education Union

23rd January 2023

Dear Parents,

Sadly, on Wednesday 1st February, some classes will be closed due to strike action. I have added this to the below table for clarity's sake. Strike action is only being taken by members of the NEU. Members of the other teaching unions will not be striking.

Closed Classes	Open Classes
Both Reception classes (Miss Watkinson and Miss Drennan) Year 1 Pine (Mrs Chivers) Year 1 Beech (Mrs Tandy) Year 3 Birch (Mr Tullier) Year 4 Hazel (Miss Pritchard) Year 5 Willow (Mrs Griss) Year 6 Maple (Miss Lynds)	Year 2 Apple (Mrs Turner) Year 2 Oak (Mrs Rice) Year 3 Rowan (Mrs Bindon and Mrs Morgan) Year 4 Cherry (Mrs Wall) Year 5 Holly (Miss Pilkievicz) Year 6 Hawthorn (Mrs Kerswell and Mrs Kennedy)

The decision to strike has not been taken lightly by teachers. I know they have agonised over this and I have been deeply touched to know that their hearts have been fully empathetic over the stress this may cause you and your children, especially after so many closures during the pandemic. Those taking part in the strike have composed the following message to you, to explain their thinking:

*As teachers, our biggest priority has always been and will always be your children and the families at St Margaret's. The decision we have made to strike has not been an easy one. Our decision is representative of a much larger issue, directly targeted at our government and dwindling budgets for schools. For too many years, school budgets have been constricted and this has had a direct impact on what we are able to do and achieve with the children in our care. The workload and pressure that teachers and schools are under is immense. We feel strongly that it cannot continue in this way. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this causes you and your family but hope that you understand and will be supportive. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to us if you need support following this decision. Our utmost priority remains to be our families here at St Margaret's.
Thank you in advance.*

If you will be looking for work for your child during the strike, I can recommend the Oak Academy: <https://www.thenational.academy/>. You might want to find an activity on here and match it to the learning planned for this term in your child's class which can be found on the *Curriculum* page of the website by scrolling down to our year group page and selecting the termly overview.

If your child is entitled to a free school meal on strike day, the kitchen will be happy to put together a packed lunch on the day before for your child to take home. If you would like to take up this offer, please let the office know as soon as possible and by the end of the day this Wednesday, 25th January 2023.

Thank you so much for your understanding and support during this difficult time.

Kind regards,

Tim Hughes

Head Teacher