



The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth Achieving Together for a Brighter Future

The purpose of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love where all achieve the very best they can, now and throughout their lives

Headteacher Shalfleet and Yarmouth: Mrs Elizabeth Grainger BEd English (Hons)

A University of Chichester
ITT Partner School



Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: National Strike Day:

You will be aware from media coverage that the NEU teaching union has declared strike action which is planned to take place on the 2nd, 15th and 16th of March. I am writing to provide you with the latest information we have regarding the strike day and how our schools will be affected.

For legal reasons, until the day of the strike, union members are under no obligation to inform Headteachers of their intention to strike. The impact of the strike action may be different in each school. There are a number of education unions, including the National Association of Headteachers (NAHT) and NASUWT who recently balloted their members regarding striking, but did not meet the legal turnout threshold for strike action. Schools with more NEU members may experience a greater impact than those with fewer members. Therefore, staff in our schools wanted to provide you with notice, to ensure that you have time to make arrangements for your children.

After discussing with our staff teams, they report that teachers do not want to strike. Teachers want to be with their class, making a difference, ensuring progress is made and improving the life chances of children. Teachers are striking against the national education policy and resourcing in schools and not against the children who they passionately work so hard for every day. In the media, a teacher's decision to strike is detailed as being about pay, from talking to teachers, is actually about the effect that the current funding levels have on the pupils in their class and the long-term impact on children's education.

Covering classes of those striking is problematic. Asking staff to supervise large numbers of children contravenes pupil/teacher ratios and is challenging for health and safety reasons.

I am getting in touch to give you notice about some class closures on Thursday 2nd March in the first instance.

Shalfleet - Year 5 will be closed on this day
At present, all other classes will be open.

Yarmouth - Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 will be closed on this day
At present, all other classes will be open

World book Day will continue on Thursday. If your child's class teacher is on strike on this day, the teacher will be in contact with you with a new date.

Shalfleet CE Primary, Station Road, Ningwood, Newport, Isle of Wight. PO30 4NN
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If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals and is in one of the affected classes, please contact the school by Wednesday 1st march, where we will be able to arrange a packed lunch to be collected that day, should you request one.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

We hope that all involved in the dispute will work together towards a resolution to avoid further strike action.

Kind regards,

Mrs Grainger
Headteacher

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