



North Elmham CEVA Primary School
Stibbard All Saints CEVA Primary School
Flourish Federation



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Dear families, parents and carers,

I am writing to update you around the forthcoming teachers' industrial action and what this means for The Flourish Federation.

Although not all unions are striking, they all support industrial action and because of that will not cover classes in the absence of the class teacher.

As I cannot guarantee a safe level of staffing in either school, I have taken the decision to close for **all** children on Wednesday 1st February.

There is a chance we will be able to provide some online learning for (some) children on Wednesday but I will inform you of that in a more detailed letter on Monday, which will also include signposting of online learning resources for children to access on Wednesday.

If your child is entitled to a Free School Meal (income based eligibility), we will provide a packed lunch, which you can collect from school on Wednesday if required. We will email a survey on Monday to those eligible families so you may order a lunch to collect if you wish. This is **ONLY** for children in receipt of Free School Meals not those who have a universal free meal as their child is in reception, Y1 or Y2.

If you have any specific questions about Wednesday, please await the information on Monday in which I hope to give complete clarity on what to expect.

Wider concerns around industrial action should be raised with your MP.

I appreciate the inconvenience this will cause for some families, and understand parents will be concerned about missed learning. I thank you for your continued support, understanding and respecting individual's right to strike during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria McConnell

A message to parents and carers

Why are teachers going on strike?

TEACHERS WHO ARE members of the National Education Union (NEU) will be taking national strike action on Wednesday 1st February.

We do not want to strike, but the government have given us no choice. We are striking for education and we hope you will support us, despite the inconvenience it will cause.

We are taking strike action because we are concerned that cuts to teachers' pay, and lack of funding for schools, are causing a crisis in education.

● *The value of teachers and support staff pay has fallen by 20% since 2010.*

● *This has caused a crisis in recruitment and retention.*

● *More teachers, and school leaders, than ever are leaving their jobs and*

the government cannot recruit enough teachers to replace them.

● *Funding for schools has not kept in line with rising costs.*

● *This means that:*

■ *many schools face difficulties finding the teachers they need;*

■ *SEND children are not getting the support they need;*

■ *Schools are spending less on important equipment and resources;*

■ *schools are cutting back on extra-curricular clubs and classes.*

This cannot go on, for the sake of education the government must change its policy on pay and funding.

We have tried talking to the government - we have provided evidence about this crisis to them year after year, but they have ignored our warnings.

That is why we have reluctantly made the decision to take strike action.

We are calling on the government to increase pay for teachers and support staff, but they must also increase funding for schools.

We are asking parents and carers to:

● **support** our strike action and our campaign to boost funding for education.

● **talk** to teachers at your child's school to find out more about our campaign and how you can support us.

● **contact** your MP and local councillors and tell them that you support NEU members taking strike action.



Campaigning for children and education

For more information visit www.neu.org.uk