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25 January 2023

## Notification of strike action and closure of Bush Hill Park Primary School on Wednesday 1 February

### Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware, the NEU (National Education Union) has declared strike action by their teacher members which is planned to take place on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the Secretary of State for Education. The NEU has been clear about their rationale for the proposed strikes, stating, 'this is not about a pay rise, but about correcting historic real-time pay cuts'. Additionally, the NEU has expressed their concerns about the lack of 'funding in schools and colleges,' and how this is an 'unsustainable situation'. The strikes are not against the children they work so hard for every day.

At Bush Hill Park Primary School, a number of teachers have made the decision to strike. Having assessed the impact on the school because of the strike action, the Governors and I have made the decision that the school will be CLOSED to pupils on Wednesday 1 February.

When making any decision to close or partially close the school, please be aware that there are many factors I have to consider. This includes the health and safety aspects of a significantly reduced staff capacity including adequate supervision, necessary first aid cover and the required safeguarding provision. I have also carefully considered the non-statutory guidance we have been issued. It is with the health and safety and wellbeing of children in mind, that the decision to close has been made.

Any child in receipt of Free School Meals will be sent a separate email with more information about how to order and collect a packed lunch on the day if they wish.

The NEU have indicated that they will continue strike action for a further three days on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March. Please make a note of these dates now and I will write to you in advance of each date to confirm the arrangements. Teachers remain hopeful that the dispute between the NEU and the Government will resolve so there will be no future disruption and they can continue to do their job in the right conditions in order to provide a high-quality education for all children at Bush Hill Park Primary School.

Thank you for your support for our teachers and the rest of our school community. I appreciate that strike action, and the arrangements we need to put in place because of it, may cause difficulties for some of our families. Please note we will open as normal on Thursday 2 February at 8.35am.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Anna Theodosiou  
Headteacher

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