



# Sageston CP School

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Headteacher – Mr A Welch LLB (Hons), PCGE, MEd



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## Strike Action – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, members of the National Education Union (NEU) voted for strike action earlier this year. In addition, members of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) also voted in favour of industrial action and are currently involved in Action Short of Strike.

The last planned NEU strike action on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February was, as you know, postponed whilst negotiations over an improved offer took place between the Welsh Government and the union. Unfortunately, these negotiations were unsuccessful, meaning that the postponed strike action will now go ahead on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. I am now in a position to inform you that members of the NEU who teach at Sageston CP School intend to strike on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Therefore, **Barn Owl and Swan Classes** will be closed on this date.

I would like to reiterate that those striking (and those involved in Action Short of Strike) at Sageston CP School will not be doing so simply for an improved pay offer. We are, understandably, very concerned about the significant impact underfunding of the education sector will have on the provision available to the pupils who are the very heartbeat of the Sageston CP School community. At Sageston CP School, we will regrettably have to go through a process of staff restructuring this year in order to make significant savings for the future.

Just to give one small example of the financial pressure we will be facing in the near future, our gas bill next financial year is predicted to increase from £5,400 to £21,400 and our electricity costs are predicted to increase from £5,300 to £13,400, without any additional funding in our budget. Therefore, as a school, we have to meet these significant increases ourselves.

The staff at Sageston CP School are committed, dedicated and hard-working professionals and want nothing more than to be in the classrooms with our learners. The difficult decision staff have made over strike action, is about ensuring we are given the proper financial backing to do the very best for our pupils – it is the least they all deserve. This industrial action is about protecting the future of education.

During any strike action, children eligible for Free School Meals will have the money paid directly into their parents'/carers' bank accounts.

There are further strike days planned for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Hopefully, a resolution may be agreed before these dates. I will keep you updated about how this action may affect the school as soon as I know.

We are, as always, grateful for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Welch  
Headteacher