



Dear Families,

Wednesday 26th April 2023

RE: Response to strike action

We are writing to you today in response to the concerns raised by several families around the impact of ongoing teacher strikes. As you will all be aware, this is a national campaign in line with the strikes currently undertaken by Junior Doctors, Nurses, and Postal Workers.

We would like to make it clear that we support this strike; for us this has never been about pay. This strike is about securing greater funding for schools and being able to provide children with exactly what they deserve - a first class education which prepares them for the next stage of their lives. Currently, recruitment and retention of teachers across the country are at their lowest levels for many years; this will continue to directly impact on the futures of all children if not urgently addressed.

We are proud to say that one of the things we teach our children about is British values, we talk to them about the UN rights of the child every week in picture news. We ask them to respect democracy and we encourage them to have their say. As a school we respect our teachers' decision to take this action.

Teachers have overwhelmingly voted for strike action. In this instance, only the National Education Union secured enough votes to take industrial action meaning that only those members could choose to act on this.

Over the course of these strikes, some staff have taken this action; each time they have been unpaid, and we have supported them by closing their classes. This is the only power we have to show solidarity. On this occasion, Year 4 and Reception are affected and we will continue to support them.

Whilst the non-statutory guidance from the DFE states that we can remain open, they also state that the curriculum is non-statutory on strike days and children can be cared for by unqualified teachers or support staff. Having

Headteacher: Laura Constanza
Deputy Headteacher: Hannah Lintern

Telephone: 01278 722527
email:office@catcottprimary.co.uk

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and all staff share this commitment. If you have a concern about the welfare or safety of child please speak directly to Mrs Constanza (DSL) or Miss Lintern (DDSL).

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reviewed this guidance, we have chosen to close these classes to all but vulnerable children.

Schools across the country have responded to strike action in the ways they see fit. In many schools, only children in examination or assessment years and those defined as vulnerable have been allowed to attend. Having spoken to other schools in our local areas I am assured that their response echoes our own with schools closing the classes of the teacher choosing strike action.

In all cases, vulnerable children, as defined in the DFE guidance, will always be invited into school. For children who will be at home, we are providing home learning in the form of Oak Academy lessons which you will find on your Class Dojo page.

We support this action and hope that a resolution is reached quickly. We understand that this causes short-term disruption and frustrations and thank you for your ongoing support.

Laura Constanza - Headteacher

Hannah Lintern – Deputy Headteacher

Lisa Carter – Chair of Governors and on behalf of the full Governing body