



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

DREAM • BELIEVE • LEARN • ACHIEVE

Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Belfield

CEO: Canon Jill Pilling

St James C.E. Primary School

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"With God, there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome. Through Him all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Friday 21st April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to thank you all for your understanding regarding the industrial action taken by members of the NEU. Strike action taken by teachers is never taken lightly. You will continue to hear in the news how vulnerable the education sector has become due to decreased funding from the government. Unfortunately, recent talks between unions and government have led to unions rejecting the offer put on the table to them. All children have the right to attend a well-funded, enriched school with highly professional and respected staff. The staff team at St James always go above and beyond for your children and they work incredibly hard to provide the very best education they can offer.

This has led to the NEU calling for more strike action on two days. The dates for these strikes are:

THURSDAY 27TH APRIL

and

TUESDAY 2ND MAY

As per previous correspondence regarding industrial action, you will know that school has to undertake a thorough risk assessment as to how this situation may be managed in the school. This is a complex process and entails the scrutiny of health and safety factors, safeguarding and first aid amongst many other factors. Following this, we have concluded that we cannot safely open the school to all pupils on Thursday 27th April **AND** Tuesday 2nd March. We can safely undertake a partial opening of the school.

PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW CAREFULLY AS THERE ARE SOME CHANGES TO PREVIOUS STRIKE DAYS.

We are able to **OPEN** the following year groups or classes as **USUAL**:

- Little Saints and the Nursery
- Reception
- Class 3
- Class 4
- Class 5
- Class 6
- We are also able to open for **ALL** Year 6 pupils and their usual curriculum will be offered.

We are able to invite Year 5 pupils into school for the **afternoon** so that we can take them to their swimming lessons. Class 9 and Year 5 pupils in Class 10 should arrive at school on BOTH strike days for 12:00pm. They will be able to get their lunch and then attend their swimming lessons. Children must come to school in their uniform.



Proud to be part of the Archbishop Temple CE Multi Academy Trust



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We are able to open a 30 place 'child care bubble' for KS2 pupils unable to come to school that day. This bubble will be open for a mix of children identified by school as needing this provision (as per DfE guidance – vulnerable pupils and pupils with an EHCP), and children of critical workers who will be in work on Thursday 27th April and/or Tuesday 2nd May. If you feel you are a critical worker then please look out for the online form that we will send you later today. We will be offering the critical worker places for children across classes 7, 8, 9 and 10 (year 5s only) under the following conditions:

- We will prioritise children of parents who work in blue light services, health and education;
- We will offer places on a first come first served basis;
- We will only offer places if the parent can show proof that they are a critical worker and that they are expected in work on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May during school hours.

We are basing 'critical worker' on the following list:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

School will contact you directly if your child can or cannot attend the KS2 'childcare bubble'. Please note, the childcare bubble will only be open in the morning for children in Class 9 and Class 10 (Year 5s only) as we are able to take those classes swimming in the afternoon.

Children who can come into school on both of those days must attend school. For those children who will not be in school, this will not affect your child's attendance record, the day will be recorded as a Y mark and this does not have an impact on your child's overall absence record.

We will provide some activities for your child to complete at home on those days. Your child will need to log into their SEESAW account and we will provide learning links to the National Oak Academy.

If your child is eligible for free school meals and is unable to come into school on those days, we will provide a packed lunch for collection on the day. We will contact relevant parents next week with more information.

Breakfast club will operate as normal for the children who usually attend and who will be in school on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. Please note, these plans are subject to change including on the day of industrial action. Thank you once again for your support and understanding with this matter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact school.

Your sincerely,

Mrs L Belfield
Headteacher



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