

# St Matthias Church of England Primary School

Wordsworth Rd, London N16 8DD

Tel: 0207 254 1148 • Fax: 0207 275 9215 • Email: [admin@st-matthias.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-matthias.hackney.sch.uk)

Executive Principal: Sian Davies • Headteacher: Lucy Blewett



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As I am sure you are aware, following the results of a national ballot, teacher members of the National Education Union (NEU) working in England's schools have voted in favour of strike action.

This is based on the need for above inflation pay rises and in seeing improvements in the Government funding provided to schools, especially to fund increases in pay. These issues contribute in part to staff leaving the profession, especially in London, and in schools having to make significant cuts which impacts the quality of provision. St Matthias has been impacted greatly by government cuts in funding.

I want to assure you that industrial action is not something staff in the education profession take lightly. We recognise the frustration and anxiety this causes and the disruption to all our families and community. Staff taking industrial action themselves do not get paid and this demonstrates, during our current cost of living crisis, how important it is to the staff to take a stand.

School will be closed to children on:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

St Matthias is likely to also be closed on the following strike dates. We will inform you ahead of these days:

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Please do not send your children into school on a day school is closed due to industrial action. We thank you all for your support and understanding.

Best wishes

Lucy Blewett  
Headteacher

## 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](http://www.neu.org.uk)