



*Yardley Wood Community Primary School*  
*"Learning Through Life"*

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

You may have seen in the news that the GMB, the Trade Union which represents many support staff in schools, has been in dispute with Birmingham City Council regarding equal pay claims. The GMB members in 35 Birmingham schools have voted to take strike action on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Yardley Wood Community Primary School is one of the 35 schools affected. The dispute is between the GMB and BCC, not between employees and the school.

The smooth and safe operation of our school, like most schools, depends on our Teaching Assistants and Support Staff, who are integral members of the organisation. The impact of the strike action will be felt most heavily in the younger year groups. The law sets out specific pupil to adult ratios in Nursery whilst in Reception and Rainbow room we have a significant number of children with additional needs.

To ensure the safety of our pupils, next Monday the following classes will be closed to pupils:

- Nursery
- Reception
- Rainbow Room

All other classes in the school will be open as usual, albeit with a reduced number of staff. All clubs and school activities including breakfast club will go ahead as planned.

The school office will be open next Monday; however, it will be operating a restricted service. Please avoid calling the office during the day, unless it is an absolute emergency. If you need to contact the office, please be prepared to be patient.

The school Pastoral office will also be operating with a much smaller team. Again, unless it is an emergency or a serious safeguarding concern, please try to avoid calling next Monday.

I am sorry for the disruption that this will no doubt cause to children and families.

**Please note:**

The only exceptions that we are able to make in Nursery, Reception and Rainbow Room are for children of key workers.

In this instance, as with the previous strike days, we are adhering to a strict definition of Key

*Head Teacher: Mr. B. Turner*  
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Workers, as those in frontline emergency, caring services and education. We are defining this group as children who have **BOTH** parents working in one of the following services (or one parent in the case of single parent families):

Emergency services: Police Service, Prison Service, Ambulance Service, Fire Service, NHS Staff (e.g. nurse, doctor, auxiliary, hospital porter)

Caring services: Social Care Services, Social Worker, Care Worker (e.g. private & public sector, care home, home help, registered carer).

Education services: Teacher, Teaching Assistant, School support staff, private day nursery

If you fit the categories as outlined above, you have no other care arrangements and need to send your child to school, please complete the slip below and return it to school by the morning of **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September**.

Please note, completion of the form does not guarantee a place at school and each slip will be considered carefully before parents are contacted on Friday evening confirming a place or not.

Yours sincerely

R Walls  
Assistant Head Teacher

#### Key Workers

**Child's/Children's name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation(s) of Parent(s) & name of employer/company name:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

We/I understand that I am requesting a place as a Key Worker & confirm that no other care arrangement is available:

If a place is offered we/I understand that my child won't be completing work set by a striking teacher:

Please complete and return to school by **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_