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26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents,

### **School Funding Strikes: Wednesday 5th and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

I am writing to you all today as the National Education Union has announced further planned strike days at the beginning of July. **Our teachers are all taking part on both days.**

#### **Why are teachers still striking?**

The pay offers to date by the government have **not** been fully funded. This means that all schools would have to take any pay increase agreed from their current budget (already allocated).

#### **Teachers report nationally they are struggling with:**

- energy costs
- childcare
- mortgage payments
- rent

While bills are soaring, the only thing that seems to be going down is the value of their pay.

The pay offer of 5% for most teachers in September 2022 was well below the soaring level of inflation – so this was a real terms **pay cut of over 7% in 2022** alone to add to the already major real terms pay cuts between 2010 and 2021.

#### **In our school, these cuts could mean:**

1. closing our kitchen to save money on energy bills (lunches would be brought in from a larger school's kitchen)
2. reducing our four classes to three in the afternoon (larger class sizes)
3. only having teaching assistant's in the mornings or no assistant support in some classes (this decreases the interactions between staff and children)
4. asking parents for monthly donations (this may not be possible for some families)
5. redundancies (teacher and teaching assistants all at risk)

**We currently have these strategies in place to mitigate these outcomes with the current poor funding levels**

1. No additional hours in office, staff are already part-time (Headteacher and SBM cover front of house in the gaps)
2. Miss Roberts has now covered the SENDco role for 7 years, this has saved the school 7x £3,000 pay award approximately £30,000 at the lower estimate (on costs/meetings/administration)
3. Miss Roberts covers 0.1. of the teachers' PPA and planned course/meeting cover, saving the school at least 39x £150 approx. £6,000 annually
4. Miss Roberts and Mrs Lees cover the role of a caretaker through sites and building management
5. Mrs Lees is part-time 3.5 days term-time only (She still often meets contractors Miss Roberts cannot meet in the holidays)

**The NEU reports on their website:** We have **lost 23% in real terms against RPI inflation since 2010** and educators are leaving the profession in their droves.

**[Statistics - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023](#) (click on the heading for source)**

- One in 10 (9.7 per cent) of all qualified teachers - equal to **43,997** - left the state-funded sector in the academic year 2021-22, a rise of 7,818 from the previous year when 36,179 left.
- Data released today by the Department for Education also shows an increase in the number of new teachers leaving the sector after one year - from 12.4 per cent in 2020 to 12.8 per cent in 2021.
- The number of headteachers leaving the profession rose to 2,341 in 2021-22, the highest number since 2010, the data reveals.
- The number of classroom teachers leaving teaching in state-funded schools rose to **38,109**, the highest number since 2016-17.

**The school will be closed to children on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July** as it is not possible to safely run the school on these days.

**We will have no teachers in school and Miss Roberts will be on residential on the Isle of Wight during this week.**

**Kind regards,**

Miss Roberts

Headteacher @StreatleySch