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Letter No: 228/2023

30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Families,

## **Response to planned strike action by the NEU on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Teachers in the NEU have declared strike action, and the next days of strike are due to take place on 5<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions, and not because of any issues at Sandringham.

**This communication is to give you notice about our arrangements for 5<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023.** The senior team have considered the situation and the information that we have on the impact of the strike on staffing levels. As a result, we have decided:

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023** we should do the following:

- **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be in school as normal**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023** we should do the following:

- **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be in school as normal.**

There will be staff who are taking strike action on these two days in protest against the government's current stance on teacher pays and conditions. One of the key areas of concern is the lack of commitment from the government to fully-fund any pay rise this autumn. Schools are in very challenging financial positions and the long-term impact of the non fully-funded pay rises in recent years have left schools vulnerable to setting negative budgets and being unable to cover all staffing costs without using other sources of funding to balance budgets, such as income from lettings and hirings which is clearly unsustainable.

We are able to run these two particular days because they fall on Sports Day and Charity Run as part of our scheduled Fit for Life Week. You may be aware that all teacher and headteacher unions are currently consulting on strike action in the Autumn term and propose to coordinate action. If this is the case, we should assume there will be significant disruption to education at Sandringham and other schools across the country in an attempt to encourage the government to listen to the concerns from the education sector.



If you have any questions about the above, please contact the school and we will find someone to help you.

Yours sincerely,

**Alan Gray**  
Headteacher