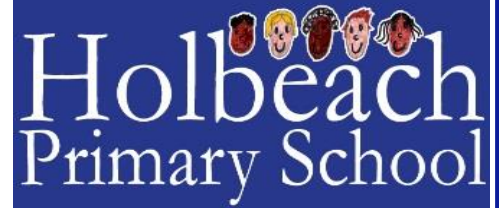


Holbeach Primary School

Nelgarde Road, London SE6 4TP

Tel: 020 8690 4713 Email: admin@holbeach.lewisham.sch.uk

Web: www.holbeach.lewisham.sch.uk



Today's learners are tomorrow's leaders

Wednesday 25th January 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

RE: NATIONAL EDUCATION UNION TEACHERS' STRIKE - WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2023

You will have heard in the press last week that the National Education Union (NEU) has voted to take industrial action, starting on Wednesday 1st February 2023. The action is in protest of teachers' pay and conditions and school funding (further explanation from the NEU can be found on pages 2 and 3 of this letter).

We would like to thank you for your patience while we have been finalising the impact of the industrial action at Holbeach. We are aware of the inconvenience that this situation will cause parents and carers so we wanted to give you as much notice as possible of the impact of the action on Holbeach Primary School.

On Wednesday 1st February 2023 every class in the school will be closed and therefore none of the children should come to school on that day.

We will update you if there are any changes to the arrangements prior to the 1st February 2023 and will provide further information regarding the other dates that the NEU have identified in due course.

In the meantime, we thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Bulpitt
Headteacher

Headteacher:
Mr Tom Bulpitt

Assistant Headteachers:
Mr Phil Morriss
Mrs Karen Robertson

School Business Manager:
Mr Gareth Hudson

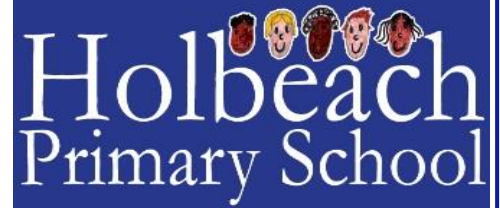
Premises Manager:
Mr Derek Holmes

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You might not know why we have taken this decision.

But what you do know is that we try to do our best for your children.

To give them a good education and make school a warm and welcoming community, where staff know and understand them and you.

Where we give them continuity and stability, with enough specialist teachers, who know their subjects. And the proper resources to help them learn and grow.

But we are struggling to do that right now.

In July, the Government offered most teachers a pay rise of just 5 per cent – with inflation soaring, that adds up to a 7 per cent pay cut.

The 5 per cent offered isn't fully funded – that means Government expects your school to pay for it out of its already dwindling budget.

Because our pay is not keeping up with the cost of living, teachers and support staff are leaving for jobs with comparable salaries but without the stress and workload generated by targets and paperwork that exist in schools right now.

One in three teachers leave education within five years. And last September, almost a third fewer trainees began teacher training than are needed.

Schools have too many vacancies. Heads tell us of vital subjects – maths, science, computing, languages – with unfilled posts and existing staff delivering lessons outside their subject every single day.

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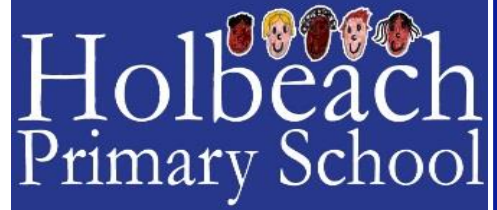
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Managing with fewer staff also means we can't give enough personal support if your children need extra help.

And it means they have reduced access to sports, drama, music and other activities that make the week for a lot of pupils.

We don't want to be on strike.

We'd rather be in the classroom, getting on with what we do best – teaching and supporting your children.

But we can't stand by and see our colleagues experience hardship with yet another real-terms pay cut.

And we can't stand back and watch the exodus from teaching and the resulting decline in the quality of education for your children.

Our action for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise isn't just about making sure that teachers and support staff make ends meet. It's about the future of education.

This Government is failing children and young people and those who teach and support them. And, like our NHS staff, we are being forced into taking action for our members, our pupils and their future.

Please show your support by writing to your MP and take the time to tell your child's teacher and support staff that you are with them.

Thank you.



Scan this QR code to find out what you can do to support us.



NEU2786/0123

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