

REF: SAF/tlb

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Planned strike action at Newquay Tretherras: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

I am writing to give you as much notice as possible about our arrangements for Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May to enable you to arrange alternative childcare if a settlement is not reached and the planned NEU industrial action goes ahead.

#### **Background**

As you know, we have had confirmation from the NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike which will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 in relation to the ongoing dispute between the government and teaching unions regarding school funding and teachers' pay and conditions.

Teaching unions across England, including the NEU, are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers' pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living in a fully-funded pay rise.

#### **What will happen at the school during the strike?**

We have larger numbers of staff who will be striking next week than we have had previously.

We have conducted an updated risk assessment to assess how we can manage the school safely for staff and students during this period of industrial action and, based on this risk assessment, Newquay Tretherras will only be open to **staff and Year 11 and 13 students** on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. We will be closed to students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 unless they are vulnerable children or SEND students, or children of critical workers.

Given the dispensation arrangements for students taking exams this summer, we believe we can **partially open the school to Year 11 and 13, and** also accommodate some **SEND children and safeguard our most vulnerable young people**.

#### **Students who will attend school:**

- **Year 11 and 13** have been prioritised to attend school as they have public examinations this summer. They will follow their timetable and have a mixture of taught lessons and independent study.
- Please contact the Year 11 or NT6 Sixth Form teams if you have any questions on [NT6@tretherras.net](mailto:NT6@tretherras.net)

#### **All other students (Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12)**

- **Years 7 – 10:** As always, tasks and homework will be available on ClassCharts for most subjects, and especially in English, Maths and Science.
- **Year 12:** Students are to use the day for independent study unless they are taking an Applied Science exam, in which case their lessons will run as normal as arranged by the Science department.
- If you need IT support with ClassCharts, our team are available to support you by email on: [ITServices@tretherras.net](mailto:ITServices@tretherras.net)

#### **SEND, Learning Centre and Well-being HUB**

- Some students will be invited into school to join our SEND Hub or our Learning Centre Hub and you will hear from the Learning Support, Learning Centre and Safeguarding teams directly to arrange this provision with you over the coming week.

- The SEND Hub will be coordinated by the Learning Support Team and they can be contacted on [SENDSCO@tretherras.net](mailto:SENDSCO@tretherras.net) They will contact parents and carers by email to make arrangements for the SEND Hub.
- The Well-being Hub Team and the Learning Centre will be inviting some students into school. They will contact parents and carers to make arrangements for the Learning Centre Hub. Staff can be contacted on: [safeguarding@tretherras.net](mailto:safeguarding@tretherras.net)

### Critical Workers

We will be opening on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May on a much-reduced staffing model. There will be a 'tipping point' where we will be unable to even partially open and we will therefore be unable to accommodate the long list of critical workers from the time of COVID lockdowns. If you feel your work is of critical importance on the day of the strikes (e.g. NHS, public safety and national security), please complete this form <https://forms.office.com/e/3aLmsgGpeN> by 08.00am on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023. We will consider all requests based on our projected capacity but will only be able to offer a small number of limited places.

### Practical arrangements

- Buses will run as normal.
- Catering for staff and students will be provided in the Canteen as normal. Students in Years 7-10 and 12 who are entitled to Free School Meals will be offered provisions to take home with them during the lunch service on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March.
- After school activities are cancelled on these days.

### Picket lines

Some of our staff will form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person and they may be holding notice boards or banners. If this is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to inform all students and parents that, as a Trust, we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are as courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

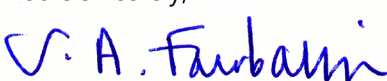
We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these arrangements, as we appreciate that any closure or partial closure is disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and have had to make decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing.

I understand that this ongoing situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with politeness and respect. Newquay Tretherras remains committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for everyone. Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to **all** staff at Tretherras.

We are working closely with our union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

If you have any questions, please contact the school as usual: [enquiries@tretherras.net](mailto:enquiries@tretherras.net)

Yours sincerely,



**MRS S A FAIRBAIRN**  
Executive Headteacher