



FAIRLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Pound Avenue
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3JA

28 June 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

STRIKE ACTION

You might have seen in the news that some teachers will be taking strike action on Thursday 30th June 2011. The National Union of Teachers (NUT) and Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) have called a national strike. The strike is about the proposed changes to teachers pensions by the Government. The argument is not with the school or with the local authority employers, but our school will be affected by the strike.

I am writing to inform you that some of our teachers will be taking strike action on 30th June, others will be working normally. As a result, we will need to close the school to some classes that will not be properly supervised.

Teachers are not obliged to inform me in advance of their intention to participate in strike action and are within their rights to merely refuse to come to work on Thursday morning. However, some teachers have chosen to give an indication of their intentions. At the moment, it appears that the following classes will not have a teacher and you will need to make other arrangements for childcare on that day: **Acorns – AM & PM Nursery, Beech, Cherry, Chestnut, Elder, Hazel, Hornbeam, Lime, Larch, Willow.** **Do not send your child to school if he/she is in one of these classes.** Their absence will be authorised and marked as a result of 'enforced closure'.

To the best of my knowledge, other classes will run as normal (**Ash, Elm, Poplar & Pine**). **Children in these classes should come into school.** If your child is in one of these classes and is absent without a reason, it will be marked as an unauthorised absence. It is worth pointing out that, should a teacher in one of these classes engage in strike action at short notice, you may be told on Thursday morning that your child will not be able to stay at school that day.

Deciding whether or not to participate in strike action is a difficult decision and I can assure you that none of the teachers are undertaking this lightly or without a considerable amount of soul searching. I know that making alternative arrangements for your childcare will be difficult for some parents. As this strike action is in direct response to government policy making decisions, may I politely suggest that you forward any concerns you have to your local MP, Stephen McPartland.

- **Address:** MP Stephen McPartland, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA
- **Website:** <http://stephen-mcpartland.com/contact>

Kind regards

Robert Staples, Headteacher