



# Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

## Northern Lights Learning Trust

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Headteacher: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)

CEO: Jo Heaton OBE



Dear Parent / Carer Re: **NEU Strike Action on Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July 2023**

As you are aware, the NEU (National Education Union) gave notice of strike action which **will affect a further two days as outlined above**. There are a number of things that we must take into account before making a decision regarding whether or not we can open the school to pupils on those days, particularly questions around Health and Safety and whether we will have enough staff to be able to manage the school day safely.

Due to staffing numbers, we are **NOT ABLE TO OPEN TO ALL PUPILS** on those days.

On **Wednesday 5 July** we will be open only to “**Pupils in Y7**” and those pupils considered “**Vulnerable Pupils**”.

On Friday 7 July, we will be open to “**Pupils in Y10**” and those considered “**Vulnerable Pupils**”.

Vulnerable pupils will fall into one of the following groups:

- A pupil Looked After by the Local Authority
- A pupil who is on the Safeguarding register
- A pupil who has an EHCP
- A pupil with identified high level SEND needs

A space for these pupils to work in school will be made available if it is required. These pupils will not attend lessons in their usual classrooms, but will follow their usual timetable via **TEAMS lessons** in a computer room. Pupils attending school will be expected to wear full school uniform.

We are aiming for **pupils in school to be able to follow their usual timetable** and be taught by their class teachers where possible. For those classes where this might not be possible, pupils will have appropriate work provided to them. These pupils may be supervised by a teacher other than their usual class teacher if that teacher is not in school.

As we are aiming to have a full year group in school, **we will be able to open our school canteen** and serve hot food.



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## Arrangements for Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July

The school will be closed to pupils on these days **except as outlined above**. We will be open every other day that week to all pupils as usual. Pupils who will be working in school on Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July will start school at the usual time of 8.30 a.m. When these pupils arrive at school, Y7 and Y10 pupils should follow their usual procedures. They will be brought in from their individual yards from 8.30 a.m. Vulnerable Pupils should report to the Main School Office to be signed in and registered. They will then be taken to the room in which they will work that day.

As far as possible, **all other pupils will be able to log on to TEAMS**, from home for each of these days, using their school Email account and take part in “TEAMS lessons” with staff who are teaching in school. Pupils have had training on how to do this, but here is a [LINK](#) to the resources page of the school website, where you will find all key information needed to access TEAMS lessons, FOLDR and how to learn remotely. TEAMS lessons are scheduled to begin at 9.15 a.m. which will coincide with the start of Period 1. During the day, lessons will begin and end at their usual scheduled time ([CLICK LINK](#) to School Day).

What we do not know, is how many teachers will be in school and available to deliver TEAMS lessons. The rules of the strike action are such that **teaching staff are not obliged to tell school, in advance, whether they will be at work on these days**. Other teachers might also be absent due to illness that day or might need to be absent from work to look after younger children whose school may also be closed. This means pupils will need to log on to Teams to see if their teacher is available.

A reminder that following feedback from parents from previous strike days, we will once again share our “**Curriculum Enrichment activities**” with pupils. These can be completed by pupils **AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO** Teams lessons. Pupils can hand in any work that they complete this way to their form tutor. These activities will be placed into a folder within the student resources area of FOLDR, as well as **emailed via the ParentMail** platform.

We are hopeful that the vast majority of lessons for those pupils not in school on either Wednesday 5 July or Friday 7 July are able to be delivered on TEAMS. In this way, we hope that all pupils will be able to engage in meaningful learning throughout the day.

If a pupil is not able to access online learning due to a lack of a device to access the internet, please make contact with us via the following [LINK](#). We will do our very best to help. We appreciate that you may have some further questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us using the following email ([venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk](mailto:venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk)) or via the following [LINK](#). We will try to respond to any queries as quickly as we can.

Once again we would like to thank you for your understanding in these very trying times. We will keep you as updated as possible with regard to any changes to the arrangements for these days, should it be necessary. Again, we will continue to try to support everyone in our school community the best that we can.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr D Airey  
Headteacher



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