



Friday 10th March 2023

Industrial action by members of the National Education Union

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to the letters sent in January from Essex County Council and both schools, please find below an updated and further information for parents and carers of both Barnes Farm Schools. Our response takes into account the health and safety, safeguarding, industrial legislation and wellbeing responsibilities held by the two schools and may change if necessary.

The NEU has posted a document for parents, carers and grandparents that explains their reasons for taking industrial action. It can be found [here](#) if you wish to read it.

How will Industrial action affect Barnes Farm Infant School and Barnes Farm Junior School?

Teachers who are eligible to be involved in this national industrial action do not have to inform the school until the day of the action itself. Nothing, however, should be inferred from any specific staff absences on the strike days as there are multiple reasons why a teacher may have cause to be absent from work. This, alongside the factors listed in the paragraph above, will impact our ability to open classes. Therefore, we have a scenario where we may be able to open some classes and others will need to close. It may also be that we cannot open any classes at all, but we will not have this information until the actual morning (Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March).

For that reason, the schools asked parents/carers, to consider any alternative childcare arrangements for **Wednesday 15th March** and **Thursday 16th March** if your child's class is closed. If the school is able, we may be able to bring some classes in slightly later than our usual opening time. On Wednesday and Thursday, you will be informed as soon as possible (by 8:35am, at the very latest), which classes, if any, are open. If your child's class is open, the school will open at 9am. School will finish at the normal time if your child's class is open.

As of 10th March, we have decided the arrangements for both schools for Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March will be as follows:

- **By 8:35am on each day, at the very latest, we will communicate directly to parents/carers, to inform them if their class is open or closed (Barnes Farm Infant School via ParentPay and Barnes Farm Junior School via email).** *Please be aware that different classes may be informed at different times due to logistics, but no later than 8:35am.*
- **All children in classes that are open will be expected to be in school for a full day from 9am with a longer period of registration allowed for.**
- **All children in classes that are closed will not be able to attend onsite on this day and their parents/carers will receive further guidance from both schools.**
- **Parents/carers of children in receipt of free school meals (not Universal Infant Free School Meals) who are in closed classes will be communicated with directly regarding lunchtime provision.**

Staff who are absent from school will not be able to set work, however, we would like to take this opportunity to alert you to the wealth of resources available at the [Oak National Academy](#) website.

Early Bird and Night Owls Arrangements

For those children booked into EBNO club on Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March, the following has been put into place due to possible changes to the school day:

Early Birds arrangements:

- If you have booked a place in the morning but do not wish to send your child in on either morning, you will not be charged for the Early Birds morning session.
- If you send your child into the morning Early Birds session, but their class is closed on either day, your child will need to be collected from school at 8:45am.

Night Owls arrangements:

- If your child's class is open and you decide not to send them to the Night Owls after school club (and you have reserved this), you will still be charged.
- Any child in a class that is not on site due to their class being closed, will not be charged for the evening Night Owls session.

For any enquiries regarding EBNO, please email ebno@barnesfarm-inf.essex.sch.uk

Clubs

Any child due to attend external coach led clubs, are welcome to attend the school site at 3:15pm for their pre-booked session. If your child attends a before school club but their class is closed on either day, your child will need to be collected from school at 8:45am.

Yours faithfully,



Ross McTaggart

Headteacher



Mrs Z. Farmer

Headteacher