Dear Parent/Carer

NUT Strike Action – Thursday 10 July 2014

As you may be aware the National Union of Teachers following a programme of discontinuous action over changes to pensions and conditions of service, have called a day of strike action to take place on Thursday 10 July 2014.

This action is not against the school itself but is part of national industrial action organised by these trade unions about changes to the pension’s schemes, conditions of service, pay progression and job loss.

There is no requirement on unions to inform us of which members of staff will take action, and it may be that they will not know themselves as there is no obligation on members of unions to obey a strike call. However, in an effort to support parents here at Ashford CE Primary, the staff have made us aware of their intended action on this day in advance.

It is always the school’s main priority to try and minimise the effect on families and on the education of our pupils in such circumstances while recognising the rights of the teachers associations to take action. The decision to close the school or send pupils home is never taken lightly but in this instance, where staff have elected to take lawful industrial action, we will have no choice but to take appropriate steps to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all pupils. Please note that a school is not able to request that other teachers cover their striking colleagues.

The majority of class teachers at Ashford CE Primary School are taking part in the action and, after discussion with the governors and advice from the local authority and the National Association of Headteachers, we have concluded that:

- **Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 will CLOSE for the day.**
- **Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 will CLOSE for the day**
- **Year 6 will remain OPEN AS USUAL**

We appreciate that this will be disruptive to you and closing the majority of the school inconveniences parents and carers so we are writing to you now to give this advance notice of the likely impact of the action on this school. We are aware that the union is still in negotiation with the government and that if the circumstances change at any point between now and the planned day of action, we will of course write to you again. Please note that OSCAHS will also be closed.
We are aware this has an impact on those pupils expecting to attend District Sports on this day and we will update those affected on Monday 7 July.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Dyer
Headteacher

Phil Wells
Chair of Governors