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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to you all for your supportive messages, cards and comments in the Ofsted parent survey. The children were fantastic ambassadors and we could not be more proud of the way they welcomed the inspection team and spoke confidently to them. I am looking forward to sharing the report with the final grades when it has been published later in February.

Strike Action on Wednesday February 1st

There has been much debate in the media about the upcoming strikes and the reasons for them taking place but the reason why staff are choosing to strike is due to the chronic underfunding of schools. Teacher pay is only one symptom of this underfunding but there are many others. Essentially, the majority of teachers feel that children's education is being damaged every day by strained school budgets and the issues of recruiting and retaining staff. Ultimately, the quality of education we offer will diminish over time unless the funding improves.

Talks are taking place between the teacher unions and the government and whilst I remain hopeful, it seems unlikely that an agreement will be reached before the date of the first strike, next Wednesday.

For all teachers, the decision to strike has not been taken lightly and it shows the level of frustration there is in the profession. Our teachers belong to different unions and only some teachers are eligible to strike but next week the following classes will be closed on Wednesday: **Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5**. Children in these year groups will not be able to attend school.

I am sorry about the difficulties this may cause to some families but I hope there is an understanding that there is a feeling of huge frustration amongst the teaching profession and the impact already seen by the lack of adequate funding.

If your child is in receipt of pupil premium, you will be issued with a food voucher.

Other dates for potential strikes in term 4 are **Thursday March 2nd, Wednesday March 15th and Thursday March 16th**. I will update you at the earliest opportunity next term about how any further strike action may affect the school.

Finally, I hope you all have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely

Alison Higgins

