

# A message to parents and carers

Teachers at Folville who are members of the National Education Union (NEU) will be joining nationwide strike action on Wednesday 1st February. We do not want to strike, as we care hugely about the work we do, the children at Folville and the wider school community but the government has given us no choice. We are striking for education and we hope you will support us, despite the inconvenience we recognise it will cause.

We are taking strike action because we are concerned that cuts to teachers' pay and lack of funding for schools, are causing a crisis in education.

- The value of teacher and support staff pay has fallen by 20% since 2010.
- This has caused a crisis in recruitment.
- More teachers, and school leaders, than ever are leaving their jobs and the government cannot recruit enough teachers to replace them.
- Funding for schools has not kept in line with rising costs.
- The government are saying that the proposed 5% pay increase should come out of existing school budgets. This means less money to be spent on the children.

This means that:

- many schools face difficulties finding the teachers they need;
- special needs children are not getting the support they need;
- schools are spending less on important equipment and resources;
- schools are cutting back on extra clubs and classes.



This cannot go on. For the sake of education, the government must change its policy on pay and funding.

We have tried talking to the government—our union has provided evidence about this crisis to them year after year, but they have ignored the warnings.

That is why we have reluctantly made the decision to take strike action.

We are calling on the government to increase pay for teachers and support staff, but they must also increase funding for our schools.

We are asking parents and carers to:

- Support our strike action and our campaign to increase funding for education.
- Talk to us to find out more about our campaign and how you can support us.
- Contact your MP and local councillors and tell them that you support NEU taking strike action.

For more information visit: [www.neu.org.uk](http://www.neu.org.uk)