



# William Brookes School



Our Ref : GRR/kat

27 June 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

School Closure on Thursday 30 June



As you will have heard in the press, the National Union of Teachers and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on Thursday 30 June 2011. 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 of their members. There is no requirement on unions to inform us of which members of staff will take action, but we have been told that 30 members of the teaching staff are part of the two named unions.

Our main concern is the safety of our students and being able to deliver a meaningful day's education. Neither the governing body nor the Head is legally allowed to close the school 'in sympathy' with the strike and have not done so. However, the school will be closed to students as approximately 50% of the teaching staff is unlikely to be in school on that day. Members of teaching staff from other unions are not allowed to cover for colleagues who are absent due to strike action.



Because of the uncertainty surrounding the situation for Thursday, I have been left with no choice but to close the school to students. This has had to include the first of our Year 6 Induction days. Around the County, there are individual decisions being made according to the number of teachers involved in the above action. Please reinforce the message to your son/daughter that local primary schools or even secondary schools could still be open and operating as normal. They should not disrupt the working day of these schools by trying to visit or use any of their facilities.

I am sorry that I have had to take the above action and hope that you fully understand my reasons. I sent out messages on Friday to allow you the maximum amount of time to make suitable arrangements for childcare. We must all hope that the issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



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Head



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