

The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School



Kingsland Gardens, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN2 7BH



HEAD TEACHER Mrs Carmel Dodds **DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER** Miss Dominique Smith

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WEBSITE www.thegoodshepherdprimaryschool.org.uk

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Wednesday, 25 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware industrial action is being taken by certain teaching unions. Our teachers are in a range of unions and the advice from each union is different. My role, and the role of the Trust and Local Academy Committee is, when there is such action, to ascertain whether or not the school can be open and run safely. The NEU are taking industrial action over several days in February and March. There will be **part closure** at The Good Shepherd as a result of the action. I have consulted with other local heads and sought further advice. Each school will have to make a decision depending on the amount of teachers who will be taking action and whether or not the school can run operationally. The DfE has sent us guidance but this is not mandatory.

The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary school will be **open only for children in Nursery and Year 4** and **closed for all other year groups** and classes on these dates:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Wednesday 1st March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

Staff at The Good Shepherd work extremely hard day in and day out. They go above and beyond for all of The Good Shepherd community. They worked tirelessly throughout the National Lockdown and taught via TEAMS whilst also caring for children in school. We had over 100 children in school most days.

Our staff often give up their own time (including weekends) to support sporting events, residential, key events in the parish, supporting families, planning and marking. The Good Shepherd is a vibrant and welcoming school, where we make a difference every day. It's the staff who help create this, I truly appreciate the contribution to society that our staff make.

A number of staff have approached me and said they wish to strike and make a united stand with their colleagues in other schools across the country. After very careful consideration and thoroughly risk assessing the health and safety implications for our children, I have no alternative but to **close school for all children with the exception of Nursery and year 4.**



Website

www.olicatschools.org

Strategic Executive Lead

Mr Tony Bishop

Registered Office: Our Lady Immaculate
Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Thomas
More Catholic Secondary School, Tyne
Crescent, Bedford, MK41 7UL

Company Number: 09436283



Should parents wish for their children who are not in school to have some work, we would signpost you to the Curriculum Newsletters where you can see what children are learning this term.

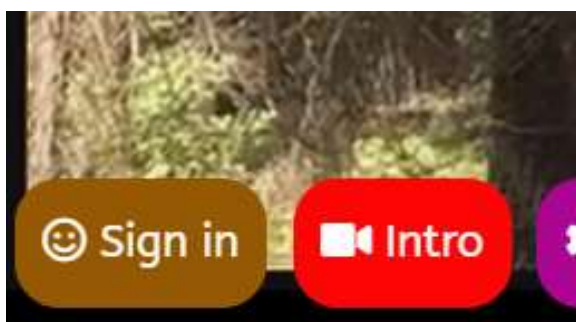
[The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School - Curriculum Overviews](#)

On the right-hand side of the page, you will find the link to your child's year group page.

Children can also access IXL/Maths.co.uk

Curriculum visions contains a range of non-fiction related texts linked to a wide range of topics.

[Curriculum Visions, part of your community](#)



Username details and passwords for students/parents

Username: thegoodshepherd/1

Password: Newton

There are a range of resources that can be accessed by children who are not in school on that day can continue working on IXL, Maths.co.uk and Curriculum Visions.

I know this will be challenging for parents for those children who cannot come into school on the strike days, which is why I am trying to give you as much notice as possible. Teachers have no legal obligation to inform me of their actions however, as the intention of the strikes are to disrupt the day to day provision and cause maximum impact, I have asked they do inform me, so I can inform parents of class closures in a reasonable time frame.

If your child is in any of the classes which are not in school and they have free school meals we will contact our catering provider and convert their hot meal into a packed lunch. These lunches will need to be pre-booked and you will be able to collect from 11am from the school office on the days of the strikes. A link will go out to those children eligible to book, shortly.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and/or that they will experience further disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

I hope you understand the decision that has been made. I do not close classes lightly.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Dodds
Headteacher