Thursday 20th April 2023

Dear Parent/ Carers,

**Notification of closure on Thursday 27th April 2023** and **Tuesday 2nd May 2023**

  We have been informed by the **NEU Trade Union** there will be continuing strike action by their teacher members on **Thursday 27th April 2023** and **Tuesday 2nd May 2023**

The following information still stands: The dispute is with the Secretary of State for Education with regards to ‘*Failure to provide a fully funded above-inflation pay rise (as measured by September 2022 RPI [NEU]. Negotiations are still in process.*

*[Schools are given additional funding to pay for these rises.]*

"This is not about a pay rise but correcting historic real-terms pay cuts. Teachers have lost 23% in real-terms since 2010, and support staff 27% over the same period. The average 5% pay rise for teachers this year is some 7% behind inflation. In the midst of a cost of living crisis, that is an unsustainable situation.

*(NEU)*.

As Headteacher, I have assessed the impact of the strike action on the school and after careful consideration myself and the school Governors, who fully support our teachers right to strike, have decided that the school will have to close to all pupils. Due to the numbers of staff involved, there will be serious operational difficulties, which could impact the safety of pupils and staff.

This decision has not been taken lightly and we regret having to take this action but feel that there will not be sufficient staff in school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children.

Our sincere apologies for the difficulties that these arrangements will cause parents/carers but unfortunately these are circumstances beyond our control.

The school will open as normal between the strike days.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the school office [**office@olivergoldsmith.southwark.sch.uk**](mailto:office@olivergoldsmith.southwark.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

Ms Murdoch