Tuesday 27th June 2023

Dear Parent/ Carers,

**Notification of closure on Wednesday** **5th and Friday 7th July 2023.**

See below the message from the Department of Education:



The NEU has announced that there are further strike actions taking place by the NEU Trade Union on Wednesday the 5th and Friday 7th of July 2023.

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].*

*[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 continued to assess 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 again 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.

We will however still be continuing with the **year 6 trip to PGL.**

The school will open as normal on **Thursday 6th of July and then as normal from the 10th of July 2023.**

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