



Next Wednesday, 1st February, will see national strike action by members of the NEU union. Although this strike action does not directly impact the opening or closing of Oak View, our school will be open as usual; this is because each class has a team of staff unlike our colleagues in mainstream where a teachers absence may require a class to close sa there is no one to teach the pupils! We do have staff striking, and due to this the school will be open but all classes will have a low demand day to make sure we can manage absences. I would strongly urge you to read up on why the NEU are taking this extreme action. It is far wider than simply pay. Our education system is crumbling, we feel this already at Oak View with our Friday closure due to funding issues. Teachers are leaving in their droves and recruitment and retention is in crisis. Sadly the system simply can't continue like this. For further information please take a look; <https://neu.org.uk/>

Upcoming Dates

- 8.2.23 National kite flying day.
10.2.23 Last day of Half Term
13.2.23-17.2.23 Half Term
20.2.23 Second half of term begins.
21.2.23 Pancake day
22.2.23 Parents Evening
2.3.23 World Book Day. Staff and pupils may come dressed as their favourite character!
8.3.23 International Women's Day
Monday 13.3.23 INSET day. School is closed to pupils.
15.3.23 Red Nose Day. Details tbc
21.3.23 Down Syndrome Awareness Day. Details tbc
22.3.23 World Water Day
27.3.23 Epilepsy Awareness Day. Pupils and Staff can wear purple.

Holiday Club

Many of our pupils have benefitted from accessing our clubs that run during the holidays over the years. The benefit of these clubs for our pupils are that they are run by our own in-house staff, who are trained professionals and who are known to our pupils. The environment is familiar to our pupils and we have access to appropriate resources including accessible toileting areas as well as our 'equipment' including the sensory rooms/ball pool etc. Equally and slightly controversially, we are also aware that many of our pupils struggle to access external holiday clubs, even when they are marketed for SEND. Over the years, these club days have been possible due to a grant that we receive to support staffing costs and resources and help to subsidise the costs to families. Unfortunately, this year, despite our usual application, we have not been awarded the grant. The grant went to Epping Forest Council to run holiday clubs. I am sure the Council will tell us that our pupils can access the SEND sessions that I have no doubt they will provide. And for some, that may be true. I have expressed my disappointment to the relevant parties. However we want to channel our efforts in to making sure our holiday club does not become a lost resource. We are exploring other funding avenues and are hopeful to be able to reopen a holiday club from the summer. The 2 days at February half term will run as planned but there will be no club at Easter or May half term.

Birthdays coming up..... Ellis (Blue), Alayna (Orange)

