

The end of the year is definitely in sight, but we all know that doesn't mean the union work is over for the year- if anything, it seems busier than ever! Arranging directed time budgets and calendars is a key part of our bargaining calendar at this point, but I'm also looking forward to the

June 18th demo; SW women's conference, SW Primary Assessment campaign launch and (maybe not looking forward to, but waiting for...) the government's announcement for what pay 'rise' will be offered for school teachers in September- usually neatly timed for when we're all ready to relax in the summer break.

Value Education, Value Educators: PAY!

At the National Executive meeting, the figures for the national demo on June 18th sounded really positive with 100s of seats filled on coaches and trains across the country - linking with other trade unionists in education and all sectors to demand a better deal for working people. *Why should we have pay kept low while energy companies' profits are soaring? Why should we have so many in the communities where we live and work using food banks, while supermarkets profits are rocketing?* Let's keep building for this and have a solid block on the demo showing this government we need a change for education staff. **So, if you've got your ticket booked, can you find 3 more people to take with you? If you've filled your district's transport, can you block book 4 extra train tickets to take some more?** The bigger we are now, the stronger we'll be for our pay campaign in the Autumn.

And, of course, we have to keep the pressure up in the media, in schools and with the public that **all education workers deserve a pay rise**. Please get in touch if you'd like me to speak or if I can help you build this in your districts and branches.

SW Women's Conference: I've had the pleasure this year in helping to organise the SW women's conference. Booked in Croyde, for the weekend of the 24th June, it promises to be a great event! Not only bringing female members together, but also looking at how we can build campaigns to include, support and win for women in education.

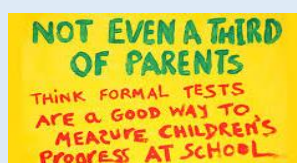


Of course, there are broader issues for women than just in education: 25% of women as opposed to 15% of men are in insecure work. The gender pay gap sits at 15.4% with a pension pay gap of 30%. And of course, the cost of childcare is extortionate (a 1/3 of income of a couple- 2nd highest in the world!), which means many women are forced to not return to work, even if they wanted to. Perhaps partly explaining why the number of women not in work has jumped by 13% in the last year. 77% of our members are women, so we need to make sure that education policies and practices reflect this. If you've not yet signed up, check the email that went to all female members and join our conference weekend as this will be a great place to start!

Tips for Increasing Communication: I shared some ideas before half term- these are four most popular:

- In Action Network, it's possible to personalise emails so they share individual details e.g. *this is the address, school and number we have for you. Are they correct?* Who knew?! A regular reminder for members to update their details.
- Reps could speak to each member, sharing postcodes and the last 3 numbers of a phone number to double-check details. If a QR code for updating details was ready too, members could get on it straight away! Providing a list of these details to reps on a sheet to tick: ✓ spoken to about pay and ✓ checked membership details.
- Could Districts hold mini 'roadshows' round schools with no rep? You could drop in some merchandise and provide a face to local names. A time to check details; reach out to the 50% of new trainee teachers who are entirely based in schools as well as share the campaign and potentially recruit a rep to keep up the good presence in the school.
- In schools with reps, could we encourage them to hold a members' meeting on the first day of INSET? What a way to start the new year with a clear NEU presence in the school!

Please get in touch if you'd like me to elaborate on any point; if I can help to carry out any of the suggestions; or anything else to boost anything else you're currently campaigning on locally.



Primary Assessment: It's the month of the multiplication check for Year 4s and Phonics for Year 1s, and we have children who have had interrupted learning for two years sitting tests to check if

they've learnt the same as their peers did two years ago. Stress levels are up for staff and pupils- and actual teaching wiped to quiz children, who you already know what their results will be. What a monumental waste of time! This system must go! Visit <https://www.icafe.org.uk/> to complete a survey to help build the case for a new way to assess in primary.

We want to build on this national work locally by bringing together primary educators to feed into this, as well as imagining what a system that puts children's learning and development at the heart of it- rather than arbitrary targets decided by the government. I have been working with others to organise a SW event, so look for your invite, and decide who else you're selecting from your district to be involved in creating a better Primary education system.



- ✓ Keep building the pay campaign.
- ✓ Come to the demo on June 18th.
- ✓ Book your place for the Women's Conference.
- ✓ Select who will lead on the primary assessment campaign in your district.
- ✓ Discuss & get in touch. I can only represent views I hear- so ensure yours is one of them!

Thanks for reading,
Sheila

My priority for this term is to continue to hear from as many of you as possible; especially supporting and campaigning for a unified fightback on pay, linked to workload and a national contract.
How do you feel campaigns should be ran? Do you think we are doing enough? Are views of all sectors and all members reflected?

