



The News ©
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by Emma Phillips

Nearly 78,000 of the country's school staff took to the streets yesterday to demonstrate against the government's handling of the health crisis. The figure comes from the Ministry of the Interior. According to the leading union in education, 75% of France's primary teachers were on strike, whereas the government claims it was closer to 38%.

With the strike underway, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Education met with unions yesterday. At the end of the meeting, Jean Castex and Jean Michel Blanquer had agreed with unions to distribute 5 million FFP2 masks in particular to kindergarten teachers. Otherwise, 3,300 more contract workers will be recruited, including teachers and educational assistants and administrative support staff to help school principals.

The obligation to wear a mask outdoors in Paris was suspended yesterday by the administrative court. The policy had been rolled out at the end of December by a prefectural order, in order to combat the rise in covid 19 due to the Omicron variant. The decision comes hot on the tails of the decision from the Versailles administrative court the day before, which also ended the policy.

The tax-free savings account scheme, the Livret A, is due to see a rise in interest rate for the first time in ten years. Minister for Finance Bruno Lemaire will be on today's lunchtime news on channel TF1 to explain the increase in the government regulated scheme. No figures have been communicated yet.

All schools in French Polynesia are closed as the country braces itself for heavy storms. French Polynesia is currently on red alert for very heavy rain and the risk of flooding.

The man who appeared as a baby on the cover of Nirvana's Nevermind album has filed a new complaint for child pornography. Spencer Elden, who is now 30, had his first complaint thrown out. On the cover of the 1991 album, he is a naked four month old baby, swimming towards a dollar note. He claims neither he nor his parents ever gave permission for the use of the image. Elden now wants to be compensated 150 thousand dollars.

And finally to Handball and last night the French team made a great debut in the Euro championships. Les bleus won against Croatia with a final score of 27-22.