



Headteacher
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Wednesday 25th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re. **STRIKE ACTION** by the **NATIONAL EDUCATION UNION**

I am sure you will have seen in the media that there is the potential for industrial action by members of the NEU affecting schools soon. Yesterday, I shared with you the response from our local education authority. The potential strike dates that may affect some classes are:

- 1st February
- 1st March
- 15th & 16th March.

In our school some of our teachers, and possibly school leaders, are members of the NEU. I do not know who all the NEU members are, other than those that have informed me by choice. I do not know yet if they intend to strike (and they are not obliged to tell me). NEU staff have a right to strike without notice, so we may not be able to confirm every class is open until 8.35am, the morning of each strike day. For this reason, be sure to have childcare arrangements in place, in case we need to close classes without much notice to you as parents. Please check our School Jotter app for any news updates.

Based on the information passed my way so far, I do expect the school to remain open for the first strike day (1st February). However, it may be possible for some classes to be closed if the class teacher strikes without notice and we do not have an appropriately trained member of staff who can cover. Staff not striking do have a right to refuse to cover a class if they are in support of the NEU actions taken.

Regarding the strike days in March, I will of course let you know as soon as I know anything about how the school will operate on these strike dates.

The industrial action is based around three main issues:

- Teacher's pay is grabbing the headlines as this has not kept pace with inflation and so teachers have had real terms pay cut for over 10 years. The impact of this is that many teachers are leaving the profession within the first 5 years of their career and each year recruitment is more difficult.
- Teachers are not joining or staying in the profession.
- School funding. Each year we are asked to do more and more with less and less. We can buy less resources, employ less staff and run less events.

I am sure there will be mixed feelings about this among you. I reassure you that our staff care deeply about the care and education we provide.

With kind regards,

Mr D. Bateman
Headteacher

