



## Strike action by members of the National Education Union (NEU)

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you about the forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions, and the impact this will have on our school. You may have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

There are three national and one regional day strikes planned. The strike days that are likely to affect schools in this area are:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Tuesday 28 February 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

**The NEU has posted a document for parents/carers that explains their reasons for taking strike action. It can be found at <https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view> if you wish to read it.**

As a school, we must consider the impact that industrial action will have on the operation of the school. One of the key issues is to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike. When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. This means that those teachers involved in the action will not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties on a strike day.

We do have members of our school staff in this union, and it is their individual right to decide whether they wish to strike or not. As a headteacher, I have no legal right to ask the staff about their intentions. I did, however, last week ask them if they were willing to indicate to me their decision.

**With the information I have currently**, I can inform you that our school will be open for all classes on the strike dates. Please be aware though, that the nature of strike action means that circumstances could change on the actual day of the strike. This is out of our control. What we will do though, is to keep parent's informed as soon as we possibly can should any changes occur.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which may cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is *very* unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the days that they are on strike.

If you wish to discuss any of the above information with me, please do not hesitate to call school to make an appointment. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Kind regards,

Mrs Holgate  
Headteacher