



Friday 20 January

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared strike action, which are due to take place in the Southwest of England on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1 February
- Thursday 2 March
- Wednesday 15 March
- Thursday 16 March.

The strikes (if they take place) are happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school. However, I do appreciate that this will be frustrating for parents.

We have a significant number of teachers who are members of the NEU; although we are aware of the overall numbers, the NEU are not obliged to inform us how many of their members intend to strike. As a result, should the strikes go ahead, this would result in very significant disruption and severely compromise our ability to run the school safely. I have limited options on this, as I cannot ask other teachers to cover for staff who are striking as this would be to undermine the strike and teachers' contracts protect them from such actions.

It is therefore likely that the school will only be able to provide a limited service on any days where the strikes take place. I am sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education, but I want to give you as much notice as possible of this disruption and, whilst I really appreciate the inconvenience, recommend that you start to make any necessary alternative childcare arrangements for these days. It is also worth noting that each school will be in a different position because of the number of NEU members in their teaching staff.

If the school is closed for your child(ren) they will be set work on FROG, and we will be in touch with any parents or carers where any further support may be required. We will also make sure that students on Free School Meals are able to receive their meals for any days where they are not in school.

As you will have seen, we are far from being in control of this situation. I therefore ask for your understanding as we try to do our best at this difficult time.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you of the final arrangements in the days ahead.

Kind regards

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher