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Dear Parents/Carers

I am certain you will have heard the announcement about strike action by the National Education Union (NEU). The proposed strikes are discontinuous and scheduled for 1 February, 1 March, and 15/16 March 2023. Rounds of talks between Unions and the government are continuing. It's important to know that our teachers in the NEU are not in dispute with BLIS or WCC, but with the government.

The formal trade dispute is about the Secretary of State for Education failing to provide sufficient funds to employers to pay a fully funded increase in teacher's pay at a rate greater than inflation. I would add that schools are facing real challenges over teacher recruitment and retention which has a long term impact on the quality of education for our children, and must be addressed by the government.

Members of our teaching staff will make their own decision about strike action and I do understand why they would feel compelled to take this action. I am awaiting further guidance from the DfE, WCC, NEU and other unions before communicating next steps with our community.

We know these strikes will cause disruption to many schools and in the coming days other local schools will confirm their intentions around opening. Many schools will be in a similar position to our own.

Legally, staff do not have to give any more than 24 hrs notice of their intention to strike and so currently, I am not yet in a position to make a decision about any effect the strike action could have on school. The Governors and I are currently looking at the possible options and will do our best to minimise closures, but staff who are not involved in the strike are not able to cover for striking colleagues.

Ahead of confirmation of our plans I would suggest that you make arrangements for childcare if this is required for your son/daughter in the possible event that they will not be in school for the first day of action on Wednesday 1st February.

I understand that this action will cause you difficulties. I hope that in the coming days there are some positive actions taken by the politicians and unions to resolve the dispute to minimise the disruption to education moving forwards.

Yours sincerely,

A Moorcroft
Head Teacher



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