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Headteacher: Mrs. L. Ashton

17th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will be aware from media coverage that teaching members of the National Education Union (NEU) declared strike action last month, with the strikes taking place on **1st and 28th February, and the 15th and 16th March 2023**. The strike is happening as a result of a national dispute between the union and the government over pay and funding, and not because of any issues in school or in the Trust.

As you may be aware, on the first day of action across County Durham, schools that have very few NEU members were able to be open to all pupils, some that have a relatively small number were open to a reduced number of year groups and some, like us, have a significant proportion and so had to close all year groups. Headteachers are expecting a similar pattern for Tuesday 28th February.

I will confirm these arrangements on Monday 27th February, in case anything changes between now and then. If the final two strike days go ahead then we will again plan for each day in the context we are faced with at the time so arrangements for all or some pupils may be different.

Unfortunately, if the strike does go ahead on 28th February, we will have to ask the following year groups to **stay at home** as we have insufficient staffing levels due to the strike action:

Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6

This is not a decision we take lightly but the safety of our pupils is paramount.

Those pupils in receipt of Free School Meals, including Universal Infant Free School Meals in Reception, Years 1 and 2, will be able to collect a packed lunch from the office between 11.30am and 12pm. A link to a Microsoft form will be sent out via a text to those who are eligible so that lunches can be ordered in advance.

I understand that this situation may be frustrating and apologise for any potential disruption caused. Thank you for your support and understanding.

School will be open as normal following the strike action.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ashton

Executive Headteacher