



Brighstone C.E. Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Wednesday 25th January 2023

NEU Strike Action

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. 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 1st February

Thursday 2nd March

Wednesday 15th March

Thursday 16th March

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over school funding and teachers' pay. The NEU has posted a document for parents, carers and grandparents 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.

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. Clearly, this is a difficult situation, which will 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.

It is incumbent upon me to 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.

To determine whether this school can remain fully or partially open, a risk assessment has been conducted. This considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

It is important that we respond accordingly in the interests of our pupils whilst respecting the rights of our staff. I can confirm that, while some teachers here at Brighstone Primary may be taking part in the strike action, we are able to remain open on the above dates, so please send your children in as normal.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Lennon
Headteacher

Steve Fairclough
Chair of Governors