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Head of School

Andrea Jones

Executive Principal

Melanie Wicks

25th January 2023

Dear Families,

I am writing to you to share information about the planned teacher strikes over the next couple of months. As you may know from the national media, the National Education Union (NEU) has announced strike action in the North West and England on the following dates: **1st February; 28th February; and 15th and 16th March 2023**. This strike action will affect the day to day running of the school, however, it is worth noting that this is not action against the school but is part of national industrial action organised by the trade unions about concerns over teachers' pay and working conditions and the funding levels for schools on a national scale.

I am therefore sharing the school's plans, so far, for operating safely and sensibly on the first day of strike action day – **Wednesday, 1st February 2023**. The only basis for closing a school or a class is if they cannot be safely operated. Not all teachers are members of the NEU, they may be a member of another union which has not taken the decision to strike at this time, so some classes may be able to remain open in some schools. This is why there may be differences in arrangements from school to school.

From the information we have been given to date, we believe that a large number of our staff may be involved, which will not allow school to operate effectively. For this reason, we have unfortunately had to take the decision to close the school to the majority of students in all year groups on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**. Please be assured that the school has undertaken a full risk assessment based on the information we have, including contingency planning, and this has been approved by our Board of Trustees. If there is any change to these plans nearer the time we will of course be in contact to inform you.

In line with the Department for Education guidance, if your child is expected to be in school on this date, you will be contacted separately with further details.

If your child is currently eligible for Free School Meals and is not in school on 1st February, we will be providing lunches in the form of 'grab bags' and you will be provided with further details of where these can be collected on the day as we will be at designated points in the local community at various times during the morning.

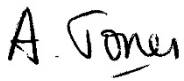
Every student will be expected to engage with their learning during this day, including where they have been asked to remain at home. If your child's class teacher is in school they will deliver their usual timetabled lesson using Microsoft Teams – students are familiar with this, and form tutors will be checking they are confident with using this over the coming week. We recently sent out a survey regarding access to devices, and if you indicated that your child does not have access to a suitable device for learning at home, we are in the process of arranging for laptops to be loaned to these students so they are able to access their learning. If you have any further issues regarding access to the Internet or a suitable device, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance so we can put plans in place to support.

All students will be expected to log on at 8.30am when initial registers will be taken, and attendance will be monitored and followed up in the usual way. Further details regarding how students should access their learning during this day will be sent out separately, including how work will be set on Classcharts for times when students do not have a live lesson with their usual teacher.

We understand that this can cause additional childcare arrangements for families and for this reason the decision to close the school to the majority of students has not been taken lightly, and we are working to ensure that we are able to continue to provide our students with their educational provision. I will write to you again nearer the time regarding the arrangements for the next day of strike action at the end of February.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Jones'.

Mrs Andrea Jones
Headteacher