

January 2023

Dear parents and carers

Information regarding the Industrial Action planned by NEU

You are probably aware from media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared strike action on behalf of its teacher members, which will affect the South West of England, including SMRT, for the whole day on each of the following dates:

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

The strikes are happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the Government over teachers' pay and conditions and not because of any issues particular to our School, which offers pay and conditions in line with national expectations. We have not been able to finalise plans for the first of the strike days yet but wanted to alert you to the challenges the action will inevitably present for our school, and therefore, for you.

A significant number of our teachers are members of the NEU, but the union is not obliged to tell us how many of their members intend to withdraw their services. Consequently, there will be very significant disruption if the strikes go ahead and this will prevent us from maintaining full provision for learners, not least because we will not know exact numbers of staff involved until the strike days start. Our priority will be to keep the school open on the strike days but with reduced provision.

It is likely that our school will only be able to provide **a very limited service** on any days when there are strikes. We are sorry about the disruption to children's education and for the inconvenience it will cause you if they are unable to be in school. Our advice at this stage is to assume that there will be very few children in school and to plan contingencies for the strike days for childcare and remote learning, which is unlikely to involve live teaching due to capacity. We will be in touch with families as soon as we have sufficient detail to commit to a plan for next Wednesday, 1 February. We are working closely with our union representatives, with whom we have positive working relationships, and will inform you of the final arrangements as soon as we know them.

I know that the strikes are going to cause difficulty for families but ask for your support as we navigate a pathway through them.

We are focusing on plans for the first strike day, Wednesday 1 February, at present, and hope to be able to be in touch with more detailed information by the end of this week. We will then be in touch about the other planned days nearer the time.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Del Planter
Headteacher