

24.01.2023

Dear Parents

You will be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union has declared strike action, which are due to take place in the South West of England on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Thursday 2nd March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March.

The strikes (if they take place) are happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues in schools. I do appreciate that this potential strike will be frustrating for parents.

A significant number of our teachers are members of the NEU. Although we are aware of the overall numbers, the NEU are not obliged to inform us how many of their members intend to strike. As a result, should the strikes go ahead, this will result in disruption and will severely compromise our ability to run the school safely. I have limited options on this as I cannot ask other teachers to cover for staff who are striking as this would be to undermine the strike and teachers' contracts protect them from such actions.

It is therefore likely that the school will only be able to provide a very limited service on the days when strikes will take place. I apologise about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education, but I want to give you as much notice as possible of this disruption and, whilst I really appreciate the inconvenience, recommend that you start to make any necessary alternative childcare arrangements for these days. It is also worth noting that each school in the area (and across the country) may be in a different position as a result of the number of NEU members in their teaching staff.

If the school is closed for your child(ren) they will be set work that they can undertake remotely, and we will be in touch with any parents or carers where any further support may be required. We will also make sure that students on Free School Meals are able to receive their meals for any days where they are not in school.

As you will have seen, we are far from being in control of this situation. I therefore ask for your understanding as we try to do our best at this difficult time.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you of the final arrangements in the days ahead.

If you have any questions, please contact us via the main office email office@winford.n-somerset.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Nik Gardner

Winford Primary School – where children flourish