



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Strike action by members of the National Education Union**

I am writing to you again about the forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. The first strike day is next **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**.

Although staff do not have to declare until the day of the strike if they will be working or not, I have been advised that most, if not all, teachers due to work next Wednesday are likely to be on strike for that day. Non-striking teachers and support staff cannot be compelled to cover a striking teacher so although we expect to have some adults in school, this would not result in classes being covered.

I have had to consider the impact that this industrial action will have on the operation of the school and a risk assessment has been conducted to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely at all on this day. Based on this risk assessment, I have decided that school will have to be **closed to all pupils next**

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.**

Wrap-around care – breakfast and after-school club – will also be closed on this day.

Children eligible for a **benefits-related** free school meal (not the universal infants free school meal) are still entitled to receive a meal. A school lunch in a takeaway container will be available for those parents who wish to order it. If you are eligible, you will receive a separate form to indicate whether you would like one.

The NEU's dispute with the government is over the failure to address the crisis in school funding and to provide a fully-funded increase in teachers' pay which at least matches inflation and begins to restore lost 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.

There is no requirement by the Government to teach the national curriculum on strike days and teachers cannot be asked to set learning for their class in advance. On Monday next week, we will update the remote learning page of the website to provide links to a number of resources which families may choose to access.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause disruption. However, I ask you to be understanding. As with all strikes, people may support the issues but can become frustrated with the disruptions. However, we hope that parents will understand that taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. The staff at Camp School work extremely hard to ensure our children receive the very best education, support and care. 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. As a school community, we support an individual's personal decision and understand that it is a very difficult decision for anyone to make.

The next proposed strike days are as follows:

- Wednesday 1 March 2023 (not 2<sup>nd</sup> March as previously communicated)
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

It is worth noting that teachers can strike for some, all or none of the strike days and so this provision may well change on future dates. I will write to update you before each strike date.

Kind regards  
Sharon Barton  
Head Teacher