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Dear Parents/Carers,

You may or may not be aware that the National Education Union (NEU) has called a strike for Wednesday 1st February. This is followed by a further three days of industrial action on Wednesday 1st, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March.

No teacher would wish to disrupt the education of young people but the crisis in teacher retention and recruitment and years of erosion in pay are the root causes of this dispute with the Government. We currently have 35 members of staff in the NEU so it is likely that there will be significant absence on these days.

Therefore, the school will find it extremely difficult to cover all lessons on the strike days and reduced supervision around school may occur which would inevitably affect our ability to maintain our usual levels of safety. At this point in time I am not able to provide details of our exact plans to manage the learning on these days, but it may be that the school will need to partially close and if this is the case then I will look to prioritise those year groups who have external examinations this summer. If some students had to remain at home then remote education or work may be provided in Google Classrooms (although striking staff cannot be compelled to provide this). Students in school will have face to face lessons with their teachers and we will ensure that groups are supervised where colleagues are taking strike action.

I am hoping to get a clearer picture on the numbers of staff who will not be in on Wednesday 1st February though striking staff are not obliged to tell employers of their plans in advance. I will send more information before the end of the week and let you know of our decisions regarding any partial closure, if this is deemed necessary, by Tuesday morning (31st January) at the latest. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Burridge Headteacher















