

ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tuesday 24th January 2023

Re: National Education Union (NEU) Teacher Strike Action

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you will be aware from the media that one of the largest teaching unions, the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to take industrial strike action. The published strike dates are: Wednesday 1 February 2023, Thursday 2 March 2023, Wednesday 15 March 2023, Thursday 16 March 2023. We have staff who are members of the NEU and who have balloted to strike on these dates, which will impact teaching provision in a number of classes.

At this current time, the school are able to cover the majority of these absences with adults known to the children. However, Year 4 will be closed to pupils on Thursday 2 March and Wednesday 15 March. We are unable to provide online learning on these dates due to the number of staff absences and the fact that we are not legally allowed to ask staff participating in industrial action to provide learning for those days.

Whilst we have been able to put contingency plans in place for most staff absences, these plans are based on the current information and resources available to us. However, please be aware that we have no capacity to cover further staff absences on those days if any arise, which may result in some classes having to close at shorter notice; we will endeavour to avoid this and will let you know as soon as possible - this will always be a last resort for us. If we do have to close further classes, it will be because we have been unable to cover the volume of staff absences to ensure a safe ratio of adults to children, when taking into account safe supervision of children and Health and Safety/Safeguarding.

Unless you hear otherwise via text, we will be open as usual to all classes on Wednesday 1 February.

Kind regards,
Steph Jenkins
Headteacher

