



Newchurch St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School

Dark Lane, Newchurch, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 7UA

Telephone 01706 229478 Fax 01706 260570

Headteacher Mrs. J .M.Thistlethwaite

26th January 2023

Dear Parents,

Strike action by members of the National Education Union

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. You may have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

There are three national and one regional day strikes planned. The strike days that are likely to affect schools in this area are:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Tuesday 28 February 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

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.

How will strike action affect Newchurch St Nicholas ?

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. This means that those teachers involved in the action will not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties on a strike day.

It is therefore incumbent upon me to consider the impact that industrial action will have on the operation of the school. One of the key issues is to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike.



Nourish, Succeed, Nurture



Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

To determine whether this school can remain fully or partially open, a detailed risk assessment has been conducted. This considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As head teacher, I and the Chair of Governors have decided on 1st February the school will be:

Open to pupils in Mrs. Callaghan's and Miss Cowen's class and
closed to pupils in Miss Parkinson's, Mrs. World's and Mrs O'Mara's class

We are clarifying the arrangements for lunch provision for children who are entitled to a Free School Meal with the catering team and once we have confirmed this, will let you know.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. 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.

Yours faithfully,

Jane Thistlethwaite
HEADTEACHER



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