

MAYESPARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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27 February 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

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.

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

- Thursday 2 March 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 Mayespark?

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.

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. 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 governing board have decided **the school will be closed to all pupils on Thursday 2nd March 2023**. For the other strike days, we will need to conduct another risk assessment and I will inform you about the other dates in due course.

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

Ms E Davies
Headteacher

