

20th January 2023

Dear Parents

### Strike action

You will have picked up in the media and news that in recent weeks all of the main teaching unions have been balloting their members about taking strike action. The National Education Union (NEU), which is the largest teaching union, is the only one to have currently reached the threshold to proceed with strike action.

NEU leaders have confirmed their intention to strike on the following days:

1. Wednesday 1st February;
2. Tuesday 28th February;
3. Wednesday 15th March;
4. Thursday 16th March.

The union is obliged to inform Pele Trust how many of their members are employed in each school but is not obliged to identify individuals. Similarly, whilst school leaders may ask colleagues to confirm which union they belong to and whether they plan to strike, staff members are under no obligation to comply with such requests.

In preparing for the strike action, Headteachers have to carry out a risk assessment to ensure that those attending school on strike days are safe and well supervised. With a significant number of colleagues potentially absent, it is clear that the school is unlikely to be able to accommodate all pupils but the overriding aim is to keep the school open for as many pupils as possible. As such, we are working on contingency plans and will share these when we have more detail.

We pride ourselves on having a strong staff body who are committed to our school and its pupils; that doesn't change because of strike action. The decision to strike is not taken lightly and we also need to remember that this is a dispute with the Government and not the school or Trust.

I am confident that we will find a way to manage this difficult situation but ask for your patience and understanding as we seek the best solution. I will be in touch again once I have more specific details to share.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. A. Wheatley,  
Headteacher

