

21st January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Industrial Action

As you may be aware ballots have been carried out by a number teachers' trade unions to determine whether their members agree to take strike action as a result of its ongoing campaign for a fully-funded, above inflation pay-rise and the related dispute with the government.

The outcome of the ballots has been announced and only the members of NEU have voted to take strike action. Other unions who balloted did not meet the required thresholds.

The NEU have announced they will be striking on a range of dates, with the following affecting our schools:

Wednesday 1st February 2023: All schools in England

Thursday 2nd March 2023: Schools in South-east and South-west England, and London

Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023: Two-day strike in all schools in England

It is the Trust's intention to keep schools open wherever possible and we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that this is the case. In some of our schools there may be little or no impact from strike action, but in others it will mean that changes are made to the way that they operate on those days in order to ensure that it is able to meet the health and safety requirements for pupils and staff who will not be on strike. As a result, the Trust is currently in the process of working with the schools to plan for the strikes and consider whether your child's school will remain open, close or partially close on those days.

In the event that it becomes necessary to close or partially close your child's school, we will endeavour to provide remote education. Further, in the event of a partial close, we will be prioritising the attendance of vulnerable children, children of critical workers and those pupils with forthcoming exams and other formal assessments in line with Government guidance.

We appreciate the need for parents and carers to be notified at an early stage so that alternative arrangements can be made for pupils if they are unable to attend school. Planning is however likely to take some time as rules relating to industrial action mean that we are unable to accurately identify the exact number of staff that are likely to engage in strike action. Your child's school will write to you at the earliest opportunity to inform you of how your child will be affected.

We realise that this may cause you disruption, for which we apologise. We wish to assure you that we will be taking all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to pupil learning and we are sure that all members of the Trust/school community will continue to treat each other with kindness and respect. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience during this time.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Kelley Butcher

Chief Executive Officer

