

24.01.23

Industrial action by the NEU

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may have seen in the news, teaching members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted for strike action. The strikes will take place on:

Wednesday 1st February 2023

Tuesday 28th February 2023

Wednesday 15th March 2023

Thursday 16th March 2023

Teaching staff have a legal right to take part in the planned strike action, however it is important to highlight that the strike is happening in result of a national dispute between the union and the government over pay and funding. It is not because of any issues at Mortimer Primary School.

At this stage, I am working to understand the potential disruption. Please be informed that planning for strike action is complicated by the fact that:

- there is no requirement for a union to inform us which or how many members of staff will take strike action
- union members are under no obligation to inform employers of their union membership, or to inform employers in advance of their intention to strike.

Our main concern is the health and safety of our students, and I will, therefore, be conducting a risk assessment in the coming days to establish the extent to which we can operate without compromising the safety of our students. I will also be consulting the DfE guidance.

I am in the process of considering several options, as not all of our staff are members of this union. I must ensure we comply with our legal obligations and our duty of care to pupils.

I will work to minimise any disruption for parents and pupils, and will endeavour to avoid school closure or partial closure wherever possible. However, it is possible that staff may be affected by closures to their own children's school and be required to take time off, this is out of our control.

I will inform you of the final arrangements as soon as possible and no later than Friday 27th January. I appreciate that this situation may be frustrating and apologise for any potential disruption caused.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Mr Bennett
Head Teacher