

Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

Headteacher: Miss Z J Linington

Potton Road, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. SG18 0EJ

Tel: 01767 314562

E-mail: info@edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk>



23 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you in relation to planned industrial action that is likely to affect our school over the coming weeks.

On 16 January 2023, the largest national trades union for teachers and non-teaching support staff, the National Education Union (NEU), announced that they had secured the necessary support in a ballot for industrial action. This is a national dispute with the government, not against our school. The dispute centres around pay and school funding.

Our priority will be to minimise any impact on the progress and well-being of children. The school can take no position on the validity of the action being taken by the NEU. Please may I ask that you do not discuss the strike with members of staff. I have asked that staff similarly avoid discussing their personal views on the action with parents, carers, and pupils.

We are not aware of precisely how many employees intend to join strike action. Individuals are not under any obligation to notify us in advance. That can make predicting the impact of action difficult. We hope to be able to remain open as much as possible during the strike, but we are aware that a large number of our staff are members of the NEU and that, consequently, disruption is highly likely on the following planned dates:

Wednesday 1 February
Wednesday 1 March
Wednesday 15 March
Thursday 16 March

The first consideration will be ensuring that we have sufficient staffing to maintain the safety of children on site. If we find that is not something we can guarantee we will seek to prioritise support for those who are most vulnerable and Year 6 as they are preparing to take their Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) in the summer term.

We will write to you as soon as possible to communicate arrangements for Wednesday 1 February and will keep forward dates under review. Therefore, at this stage, I would ask you to consider what child care arrangements you would be able to make if we have to close the whole or parts of the school. Many thanks for your understanding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Z Linington'.

Miss Z J Linington
Headteacher

