

# Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

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30 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **RE: Strike Action Update – Partial Closure on 1 February**

We wrote to you last week to share the dates of planned strike action by the NEU (National Education Union). We understand that you will welcome as much advance notice as possible of our plans, so I am writing to update you on arrangements for Wednesday 1 February.

Predicting the precise impact of strike action is difficult but we are aware that a number of our staff are members of the NEU and are therefore likely to strike. All schools are required to have an appropriate number of staff to ensure the safe running of the school and supervision of the children. Unfortunately, we are likely to fall below this number.

We have therefore decided to close school to the following year groups on Wednesday 1 February.

### **School closing for pupils in Years 7 and 8; 5BC, 5JN and 5TH**

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer live online lessons for pupils throughout the day because we are unable to ask non-striking colleagues to 'cover' in this way. Therefore, we will be directing pupils to a range of online/remote learning to undertake. Further details of this will be communicated in due course. There is no expectation that parents/carers or pupils not expected in school contact the school to confirm 'virtual attendance, or that they are working from home.

The school will reopen to everyone on **Thursday 2 February**.

### **School is open for pupils in Year 6, 5SM and 5VT**

As was the case during the pandemic closures, we will be inviting certain pupils who we know are more vulnerable, or who require specialist support, to attend school and will contact you directly to invite you in should that be the case.

### **Free School Meals**

Pupils who are not attending school but are eligible and require a free school meal will be able to come and collect a packed meal from school by arrangement. Please contact the front office by 3.30pm on Tuesday 31 January if you want to take up this offer.

### **School Transport**

The school buses will run as normal on 1 February.

### **Further strike dates**

We will review our arrangements prior to each of the other scheduled strike dates and communicate plans to you in advance. It remains possible that the dispute will be settled in time to avoid further action, but it is sensible to keep a record of these dates and be prepared for further disruption.

- Wednesday 1 March
- Wednesday 15 March
- Thursday 16 March

As I outlined to you last week, the school takes 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 directly with children, parents, and carers.

However, we will take steps to explain in a balanced way to pupils what strike action means, and what the dispute that is causing this disruption is all about.

I am sorry that this situation will cause disruption and inconvenience, but I want to assure you that we will always act in the best interests of our pupils' safety and wellbeing. I am sure we all look forward to a satisfactory resolution to this dispute and a return to normal provision.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Yours sincerely



Miss Z J Linington  
Headteacher