



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr. R. Curry

24th February, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: National Strike Action by the NEU taking place on Wednesday 1st March, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023.

You will be aware from coverage in the media and from my letter to you all last week that members of the National Education Union (NEU) have declared strike action on the following days:

- Wednesday 1st March (Regional Strike)
- Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023 (National Strike)

As previously mentioned, this strike action is taking place because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over pay and conditions – but also of the recruitment and retention crisis and the continued lack of funding and investments in education as a whole. This is not a decision that any teacher will have taken lightly. It is important to note that teachers are striking against the national educational policy and resourcing in schools and **not** against the children that they work so hard for every day.

I am writing to communicate our school's arrangements for **Wednesday 1st March only** and not for the remaining strike dates, as it is unclear whether teachers at Our Lady's will make the decision to support strike action on those dates. To date, I can confirm that school will not be open to Year 1 on Wednesday 1st March. Children in Year 1's attendance will **not be** affected by the strike day, as they will be coded as a Y (unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances). However, this means that you will now need to make alternative childcare arrangements for your child on this day if they are in Year 1. Remote learning for Year 1 will not be provided on this day.

If your Year 1 child is entitled to free school meals, you will be able to collect a packed lunch from the main office from 12:00pm. If you would like a packed lunch, could you please make the school office aware by 9.00am on Wednesday 1st March via email.

At this time, I am unable to advise if any classes will be closed on the remaining proposed dates, but I will send out more information nearer the time. I am sorry about the potential disruption to your child's education and I fully appreciate that this will be challenging and frustrating for parents, which is why we have tried to provide as much notice as possible regarding this week's arrangements at our school. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Kind regards,

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Richard Curry