

26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents

**Notification of strike action resulting in closure of the school to all children on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2023**

We have been informed by **NEU Trade Union** that there will be a day of strike action by their teacher members on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**. The dispute is with the Secretary of State for Education with regards to the NEU view that there has been a '*Failure to provide a fully funded above-inflation pay rise (as measured by September 2022 RPI). A fully funded pay rise is one that is funded by additional resources sufficient to provide the above-inflation pay rise*' (NEU).

As Headteacher, I can confirm that the pay rise for all staff in this last academic year was not funded by the government and we had to find almost £60,000 from our school budget, money which should have been spent on resources for the children.

I have assessed the impact of the strike action on the school and have decided that the school will have to close to pupils. Due to the numbers of staff involved, there will be serious operational difficulties.

This decision has not been taken lightly and we regret having to take this action but feel that there will not be sufficient staff in school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the pupils.

Remote learning will not be provided by the teachers.

Our sincere apologies for the difficulties that these arrangements will cause parents/carers but unfortunately these are circumstances beyond our control.

The school will open as normal on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

Please also note that the NEU have planned strike action for **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March**. At this stage I do not know if any teachers will also strike on these days as they lose a day's pay each time. I will keep you informed as soon as I know. Please prepare provisional child care arrangements just in case.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Baptiste  
Headteacher