

23rd February 2023

Dear Parents

Notification of strike action resulting in closure of the school to all children on Thursday 2nd March 2023

We have been informed by **NEU Trade Union** that there will be a day of strike action by their teacher members on **Thursday 2nd March 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 you will already know, the previous pay rise was not funded and we had to find almost £60,000 from our school budget. This is money which should have been spent on resources for the children.

I have assessed the impact of the strike action on the school and in agreement with the Chair of Governors, have decided that unfortunately 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 there will not be sufficient suitably qualified staff in school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the pupils.

Remote learning will not be provided by the teachers. However, you can access <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year> which has a large range of lessons for all year groups and subjects which children can access at home.

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 Friday 3rd March. This will be the World Book Day. Children are invited to wear costumes if they would like, remembering there are plenty of stories which just require "own clothes".

Please also note that the NEU have planned strike action for **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th 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. I have ensured however, that the Year 6 trip will not be affected by this.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Baptiste
Headteacher