



The Priory Church of England Primary School
Inspiring all to learn, flourish and achieve

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Thursday 19th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Industrial action by National Education Union (NEU) - Wednesday 1st February

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU (National Education Union), which is the largest teachers' union, have declared strike action in pursuit of its claim for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise. The first strike has been announced and this is due to take place on Wednesday 1st February. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions of service, and not because of any issues at our school.

I'm getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible that learning is likely to be disrupted on this day. At this stage, I am unclear as to the full extent of the action by NEU members and whether it will be possible to open the school or not. **Sadly, I have to recommend that you start to make alternative childcare arrangements.** The NEU has said it will hold strikes on:

- Wednesday, February 1 (England and Wales),
- Thursday, 2 March (London, South East, South West regions)
- Wednesday, 15 March (England and Wales)
- Thursday, 16 March (England and Wales)

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation (some teaching unions are not striking), and I will inform you of the **final arrangements as soon as possible.**

I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education. I know from conversations with our teachers here that they are extremely saddened by this course of action, but many feel that they have no alternative. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. The Priory School staff team remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Ruffle, Headteacher