

24th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

<p>28th February (Northern, North West, Yorks & Humber)</p>	<p>15th March (whole country)</p>	<p>16th March (whole country)</p>
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As you may have seen, the National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that their teaching members will be taking industrial action in the form of strike days. The next date is **Tuesday 28th February** and then Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March but we will update you of the plans closer to those dates as the Secretary of State is meeting with trade unions to try to resolve the outstanding issues.

Neither the Outwood Grange Academies Trust Board nor myself as Principal are legally allowed to close the academy in sympathy with the strike, and we will not do so. However, our main concern is the health and safety of our students. The academy will only close (partially or fully) if, in our opinion and following a full risk assessment, it is not safe to remain open.

Due to the number of staff taking action, we have made the difficult decision to close the academy to children in Reception and Year 1 on the 28th February, with the exception of vulnerable children who can attend as normal. All other year groups will be expected to attend as normal. We will update you again about the plan for the academy before the next proposed strike date.

Online learning via Google Classroom will be available to all students not attending school and students will be expected to complete the work set.

Students in Reception and Year 1 who are in receipt of free school meals may arrange to collect a grab bag between 12-12.30pm on Tuesday 28th February. Please contact enquiries@newstead.outwood.com or phone the school office before 3.15pm on Monday 27th February to order a lunch if you would like a grab bag on the strike day.

The academy will be open as normal to all other classes and students should arrive ready for the usual 8.45am start.

As we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, decisions may have to be taken at the last minute.

This action is not against Outwood Primary Academy Newstead Green itself but is part of national industrial action organised by the trade unions about salary negotiations with the Department for Education.

In order to ensure that we can communicate any changes to these plans at short notice; which may include on the day itself, we are asking parents/carers to ensure that we hold up to date emergency contact details. If you do need to make any changes, please send to our dedicated email address for this purpose enquiries@newstead.outwood.com.

We understand that there will be concerns about the disruption but we want to give you this advance notice and thank you in advance for your patience and understanding at this time.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Lindsey Corbett
Principal