

10th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Industrial strike action – Strike Days on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023

As you will already be aware from previous communications, the National Education Union (NEU), announced that they had secured the necessary support in a ballot for industrial action. This is a national dispute with the government, regarding pay and school funding. I am writing to you today to update you about what might take place next week.

Striking is the right of every teacher who is part of a union and is a personal choice, which we respect as a school. As the school's Headteacher, it is my primary responsibility to ensure our pupils receive the highest standard of education and care.

Ahead of the third and fourth planned strike days, we are assessing the impact that this will have on our school. We are not always aware of precisely how many employees intend to join strike action. Individuals are not under any obligation to notify us in advance. That can make predicting the impact of action difficult. We will remain open as much as possible during the strike, but we are aware that many of our teaching staff are members of the NEU and that, consequently, we are expecting some class closures are likely. The remaining strike days are scheduled for the following dates:

- **15th March 2023 (whole country strike)**
- **16th March 2023 (whole country strike)**

As you know, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils is our top priority so either we will be able to continue with the school day as normal or, if there are not enough staff to safely have students on site, we will undertake a partial school closure where some classes are closed.

We will endeavour, where possible, regardless of industrial action to have sufficient staff onsite to welcome the vulnerable children into the school that we invited previously and also the children of critical workers. Vulnerable children will be prioritised first and families will be notified directly if we are able to accommodate their children regardless of any partial closures. Where we are able to welcome in the children of critical workers, we will prioritise the children of front line, critical workers in hospitals, adult social care and education.

We will write to you as soon as possible to communicate arrangements for Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March and will keep future dates under review. We will keep you updated with any further important information that arises. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or a senior member of our team.

If you are employed as a front line, critical worker in hospital, adult social care or education and you would like us to accommodate your child in the event their class is closed, please inform the office by email by Monday 13th March at 10am (office@arbury.cambs.sch.uk). Please give your child's name and class, your job title and your employer.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this time.

Ben Tull
Headteacher
Arbury Primary School