



## The Federation of Bishop Sutton and Stanton Drew Primary Schools



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the email sent on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, you will be aware that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared strike action, which are due to take place in the South West of England on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Thursday 2nd March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March.

The strikes are happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, school funding and recruitment issues in education, and not because of any issues in our Trust or our Federation. However, I do appreciate that this will be frustrating for parents.

We have a significant number of teachers who are members of the NEU. Although we are aware of the overall numbers, the NEU are not obliged to inform us how many of their members intend to strike. As a result, should the strikes go ahead, this will result in very significant disruption and severely compromise our ability to run the school safely. I have limited options on this as I cannot ask other teachers to cover for staff who are striking as this would be to undermine the strike and teachers' contracts protect them from such actions.

It is therefore likely that the school will only be able to provide a very limited service on any days where the strikes take place. I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education, but I want to give you as much notice as possible of this disruption and, whilst I really appreciate the inconvenience, **recommend that you start to make any necessary alternative childcare arrangements for these days.** It is also worth noting that every school may be in a different position as a result of the number of NEU members in their teaching staff and that we are looking at a rapidly evolving situation.

If the school is closed for your child(ren) they will be set some tasks that they can undertake away from school. (These will be optional resources that can be used by families who would like children to complete work during school/class closures caused by industrial action. Tasks will not be compulsory and do not need to be submitted to teachers. More information to follow). We will be in touch with any parents/carers where we feel further support may be required. We will also make sure that students on Free School Meals are able to receive their meals for any days when they are not in school – again, details to follow.

As you will have seen, we are far from being in control of this situation. I therefore ask for your understanding as we try to do our best at this difficult time. We are working closely with staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you of the final arrangements as soon as I possibly can.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Marriott or me via the school email addresses or usual telephone numbers.

Kind regards,  
Dieter Cook

