

24th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

At this present moment the National Education Union (NEU) has decided to continue their industrial action with the planned strike on Thursday 2nd March going ahead in our region. There is the possibility that this strike action could be paused.

At present there are also plans for national strikes on Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March.

As was the case for the last strike at the start of February the information I have is that a significant number of teachers at Altwood are planning to strike on 2nd March.

Legally teachers in the NEU do not need to inform me if they are planning to strike therefore, I am not able to know for sure how many teachers will be attending until just after 8:30am on the relevant day. At that point I can be clear on how many have reported into school. As you can imagine, this makes planning very difficult. My main priority is to ensure that as many students as possible can attend school but, clearly, I have to consider the effective running of the school with the likelihood that there will be very few staff on the school site.

The Government has asked Headteachers to prioritise attendance for vulnerable children and those taking public exams this summer. For this reason, if the strike goes ahead on Thursday 2nd March, I have decided to restrict attendance to allow only students in Year 11, Year 12, Year 13 and those students classed as vulnerable children into school on that day.

For all other students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 the school will be closed and work and activities will be made available. Students should in the first instance check their subject Teams for work provided or to catch up on. Work will only be set on Teams on the day if the class teacher is in school on Thursday, however all staff routinely put work in the files section under class materials and so students should check to make sure that they are fully up to date. Students can also use online platforms such as Educake, Kerboodle and Dr Frost. They will be able to find additional work, other than that on Teams, emailed to them and on our website in the online learning section of the learning area.

Students who are eligible for Free School Meals can collect a food parcel from 3.10pm the afternoon before the strike. They should go to the Hub servery to collect their parcel.

We will know for sure in the coming days if the planned strike for Thursday 2nd March will go ahead and I will communicate further details when I know either way.

I expect to have more information about the planned strike days on 15th and 16th March in the near future and will update you in due course in order that you can make the necessary plans.

I would like to thank you in advance for your understanding as this difficult situation continues.

Yours faithfully,



Neil Dimbleby
Headteacher