

Abbey School

an academy within Nexus MAT

Little Common Lane, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 2RA

Tel: 01709 740074 Fax: 01709 553465

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www.abbeyschool.co www.nexusMAT.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Luci Windle

Head of School: Mr Wayne Askham



INSPIRE...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE

23.1.23

Dear families,

Confirmed strike action by the National Education Union (NEU) on 1 February 2023

As many of you will be aware, members of the NEU will go on strike on Wednesday 1 February 2023. Whilst this action was proposed on Monday 16 January, it has only been confirmed now.

As a school, we have consulted with our workforce to try and ascertain how many of our teachers will be striking on the 1 February, so that we can plan accordingly.

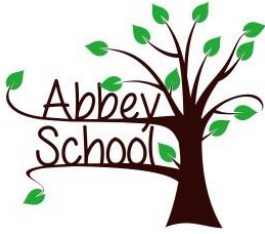
However, the intelligence we can't gather is how many staff in other schools are going on strike, which in turn impacts on our whole workforce as – where an employee has a child of school age – they may not know until the morning of the 1 February whether their child's school is open or not, which in turn impacts their ability to attend work.

This creates a dilemma for us, as our strong preference is to be open to all pupils, with any partial closure communicated with as much notice as possible. However, if we don't know about the wider impact of the strike action on our workforce until the morning of 1 February, we may not be able to safely open and we cannot provide due notice to families on any closure requirements.

To try and balance our two priorities of being open whilst also providing as much notice as possible of any closure, **we are therefore asking families to confirm if they are able and willing to have their child home educated on the 1 February 2023.** By asking the question now, we hope it gives families the chance to consider and prepare for this. Where you are able to accommodate home learning on that day, resources will be provided in advance. It is our hope that agreed, reduced footfall in school – that gives families notice to plan and prepare – enables us to manage any staffing shortages more easily without the need to implement late notice closure of the whole school. This is the only reasonable way we can mitigate such uncertainty.

We recognise this won't be possible for some families, but where it is can you please confirm by completing the form on the link <https://forms.office.com/e/4Hv0p4AeLr> by no later than midday





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on Thursday 26 January 2023, to confirm your child can and will be some educated on that date.

At this time, the NEU has indicated its members will strike on a further 3 dates across February and March. The impact of strike action on 1 February 2023 will play a pivotal role in informing our planning for future strike dates. Whilst we respect a trade union’s right to strike, we also apologise for the inconvenience and uncertainty this causes for families, and hope you understand why we are making this request at this time.

At this point we unfortunately cannot rule out having to close at short notice, but hope you understand we are doing all we can to give families as much support and notice as possible. More information will be communicated in due course.

Yours faithfully.

Mrs L Windle

Mr W Askham

Executive Headteacher

Head of School

