



Our Ref: LTM/kmd/strikefeb

25 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Planned Industrial Action by the National Education Union (NEU) on Wednesday, 1st February 2023

You will be aware that teaching members of the NEU have called a one-day strike on Wednesday, 1st February 2023. I am writing to inform you that due to the high number of teachers at Oldbury Wells School that are members of this union, we will be closed to most students on this day.

The NEU have written to all schools to explain the reasons for the strike action, which are due to a dispute with the Government not with individual schools or Trusts, they say:

- The dispute is to correct “historic real terms pay cuts. Teachers have lost 23% in real terms since 2010 and support staff 27% over the same period.”
- They want the pay deal to be funded from the Government rather than found from stretched school budgets.
- They want government action to address problems with recruitment and retention in our sector.

As things stand, this is likely to further affect our school on the following dates:

- Wednesday, 1 March 2023
- Wednesday, 15 March 2023
- Thursday, 16 March 2023

Please note that each planned strike day may lead to different arrangements so I will write to confirm further details nearer to dates given.

Staff not participating in the industrial action will be working in school on the day of the strike; however, teachers are normally instructed by their own unions not to undertake the duties normally carried out by their striking colleagues, which would include covering teaching and covering supervision at breaks and lunchtime. I have therefore reluctantly taken the decision to close the school for most students on health and safety grounds.

Where possible we will be organising work for students to complete at home through the use of Satchel One using our normal distance learning procedures:

<http://www.oldburywells.com/parentguardian-information/distance-learning>

I will be writing again shortly to confirm further details for this.

Continued overleaf/...

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Headteacher: Mr Lee Tristham
Oldbury Wells, Bridgnorth
Shropshire, WV16 5JD
Tel: 01746 765454
Email: school@oldburywells.com
Web: www.oldburywells.com

T: 01746 760509
E: office@trustedcsat.co.uk
E: finance@trustedcsat.co.uk
Company Number: 09617166



I am informing you of this decision now to allow you time to make any necessary alternative childcare arrangements. Should the strike be called off in time for us to change this decision, I will write to all parents immediately to inform them of further actions.

We will be providing support in school for students whose parents/carers are Critical Workers and for students with a social worker or EHCP. For parents who require this support we would ask you complete the information on the following link by Friday, 27th January at 3:00pm to allow arrangements to be finalised:

<https://forms.office.com/e/GJ2XQYYPeR>

For those students who would normally receive a Free School Meal, our canteen will be providing a 'grab bag' for collection at the end of the day on Tuesday, 31 January which can be collected from West Side Reception. Parents/Carers of students eligible for FSM can request this on the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/UQCQjUDwd0>

Thank you for your understanding, we will endeavour to ensure that the strike days are managed as effectively as possible for our students and families (especially our examination groups).

Yours faithfully



Lee Tristham
Headteacher