

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **National Education Union - strike action for teachers**

As you may have seen, the National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that their teaching members will be taking industrial action in the form of strike days. The first date scheduled is Wednesday 01 February. The other three dates are Tuesday 28 February, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March but we will update you of the plans closer to those dates as the Secretary of State is meeting with trade unions to try to resolve the outstanding issues.

This action is not against Outwood Primary Academy Darfield itself but is part of national industrial action organised by the trade unions about salary negotiations with the Department for Education.

Neither the Outwood Grange Academies Trust Board nor myself as Principal are legally allowed to close the academy in sympathy with the strike, and we will not do so. However, our main concern is the health and safety of our students. The academy will only close partially or fully if, in our opinion and following a full risk assessment, it is not safe to remain open.

Due to the number of staff taking action, we have made the difficult decision to **partially** close the academy **on the first strike day (01 February) to children in the following year groups:**

**Year One**

**Year Five**

**Year Six**

The partial closure of these year groups is with the exception of vulnerable children who can attend as normal. For all other year groups, the school will remain open as usual. We will update you again about the plan for the academy before the next proposed strike date.

Whilst the academy will be closed to some students, online learning via Google Classroom will be available to all students and students will be expected to complete the work set.

Students in all year groups in receipt of free school meals may attend between 12.30 and 1.00 for their lunch – these will be given as a grab bag option.

As the decision to strike can be an ever-changing picture leading up until Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February, please ensure you have arrangements for alternate childcare arrangement on this day for if further classes are to close. In this circumstance, you would be informed via text message at the earliest acknowledgement of change. We will make every effort to give notice - at the latest by the day before.

In order to ensure that we can communicate any changes to these plans at short notice; which may include on the day itself, we are asking parents/carers to ensure that we hold up to date emergency contact details. If you do need to make any changes, please send to our dedicated email address for this purpose [enquires@darfield.outwood.com](mailto:enquires@darfield.outwood.com). We will always endeavour to minimise disruption as much as possible.

We understand that there will be concerns about the disruption but we want to give you this advance notice and thank you in advance for your patience and understanding at this time.

Yours faithfully



Mr T Bower  
Head of School