

21st April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

27 April (whole country)	2 May (whole country)
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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 third and fourth dates scheduled are **Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May**.

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 Lead 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 close the academy to children in Year 1 and Year 3 on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. All other year groups will be expected to attend as normal.

Students in the above year groups who are in receipt of free school meals may arrange to collect a grab bag between 12-12.30pm on 27th April and 2nd May. Please contact enquiries@darfield.outwood.com or phone the school office before 3.15pm on Tuesday the 25th April to order a lunch if you would like a grab bag on the strike days.

Online learning via Google Classroom will be available to all students not attending school and students will be expected to complete the work set.

The academy will be open as normal to all other children and children should arrive ready for the usual 8.45 am start.

As we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, the decision to partially or fully close may have to be taken at the last minute. However, every effort will be made 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 . We will always endeavour to minimize 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Wakefield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs K Wakefield
Lead Principal