



Mrs A D Thorpe  
Head Teacher

## St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

Hillhead Road  
West Denton  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE5 1DN

Telephone: 0191 2672233  
[office@stjohnvianneynewcastle.org](mailto:office@stjohnvianneynewcastle.org)  
[www.stjohnvianneynewcastle.org](http://www.stjohnvianneynewcastle.org)

*Through following Jesus, we aim to be a caring, happy school, where everyone is valued and appreciated and can reach their true potential. We hope to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.*

**READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE**

27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

As I alerted you earlier in the week, the National Education Union (NEU) has voted for strike action for teaching staff, this letter is about the plans for that day only.

**The provisional dates are as follows:**

Wednesday February 1st (national strike)  
Tuesday February 28th (regional strike)  
Wednesday 15th March (national strike)  
Thursday 16th March (national strikes)

Teaching staff at our school have a legal right to take part in the planned strike action, however, it is important to emphasise that the dispute and strike action is not specific to St John Vianney. The industrial action is in relation to the NEU's dispute with the Government over the nationally agreed pay rises when considering the pressures faced by staff with the increased cost of living which we are all experiencing. It is a national issue, affecting all schools in England. It is also important to note that teaching staff in other unions have not been instructed to strike, so they will be in school.

After having carried out a rigorous risk assessment of the impact of strike action including the number of staff available in school on the **1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**, I have liaised closely with BBCET and taken the hard decision to **close Year 5 and Year 6 to pupils**, for that day only. Decisions about the impact on education and possible closures will be made on a day by day basis and communicated to parents as soon as possible. I appreciate the help all staff have given, enabling me to give parents as much notice as possible.

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, the pupils from Nursery to Year 4, will not be having Teaching and Learning in the normal way, due to the impact of staff striking. All pupils in school will come off the academic teaching timetable and take part in creative activities to support their well-being.



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School is part of the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust (BBCET) company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number No 7841435.  
Registered Office: Fenham Hall Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9YH.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and they are in Year 5 or Year 6 please let us know on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January via 01912672233 or [office@stjohnvianneynewcastle.org](mailto:office@stjohnvianneynewcastle.org) if you require a packed lunch to be sent home on Tuesday evening for your child who will not be in school on Wednesday.

Finally, the staff at St John Vianney all work extremely hard to ensure that your children receive the very best education, support and care and they do not wish to disrupt this. The action they decide to take is not one that will be taken lightly, and is one that they ultimately believe does have the best interests of the children at its heart.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

*A D Thorpe*

Mrs A D Thorpe  
Headteacher