



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
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

23rd January 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

As you may have seen in the news, the National Education Union (NEU) has voted for strike action for teaching staff on 1 February 2023, 28 February 2023, 15 March 2023 and 16 March 2023.

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 taking into account 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.

At this stage we do not know how the planned strike action might impact our school. To assist with our planning, we have asked all teaching staff to confirm whether or not they intend to take part. There is no legal obligation on staff to respond, but we are hoping many will do so, so we have a better understanding of who intends to work on the planned strike days.

There is also a risk that teaching and support staff at our school might be impacted if their own children's school is closed. It is possible that some staff may need to take last minute time off to care for their own children, as a result of actions outside of our control. We will closely monitor this situation.

Please be assured that we shall do everything reasonably possible to keep the school open, provided that we are satisfied we have enough staff in school to comply with our legal obligations and duty of care to pupils.



If we feel this is not possible and we need to consider closing the school (to some or all pupils), then we shall try and provide you with as much notice as possible of this decision. This could be a whole school closure, or we may need to consider reducing pupil numbers by limiting attendance on the above strike days.

I apologise that I am not able to provide you with a clear position at this stage. We will provide you with an update later this week. In the meantime, you may wish to begin considering childcare arrangements for the above dates, in the event that school closure does become necessary.

In the meantime, thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher