



Mrs A D Thorpe  
Head Teacher

## St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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*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**

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6<sup>th</sup> February 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 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.

At this stage we do not know how the planned strike action might impact our school as every strike day is different, staff do not have to inform the headteacher if they plan to strike until the day of action. Whilst there is no legal obligation on staff to inform school prior, our staff are incredibly helpful and we are hoping many will do so, so we have a better understanding of who intends to work. Each day is different and a teacher may choose to strike on one day and not on another, so plans will change for every strike day.

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 continue to 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, however please be aware that the next strike day is planned for the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 which is just after half term. This could be a whole school closure, or we may need to consider reducing pupil numbers by limiting attendance on the above strike days, this may or may not take the same form of the previous closure, each day will be taken on a case by case basis.

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

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

*A D Thorpe*

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Headteacher