



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Deputy Headteachers: Mrs A Bates BA (Hons) QTS & Mrs M Ford BA (Hons) QTS



Monday 27th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As mentioned in the newsletter, the National Education Union (NEU) balloted its members in England and met the threshold required to commence industrial action. The next day of planned strike action for teaching staff that will affect Downton Primary School is **Thursday 2nd March**.

We want to give our families and staff as much notice as possible about potential disruption this week. I understand that this will inconvenience families and appreciate that you will want to know how this will affect your child/ren so that you can plan any alternative childcare arrangements.

We have asked the NEU teacher members in our school to inform us if they are intending to strike and can confirm that the following year group will be affected: **Foxes, Hedgehogs, Badgers, Hawks, Kestrels and Stags**. After a thorough risk assessment, I can confirm that the above named classes will be closed for all pupils on Thursday 2nd March.

On Thursday, all of our other remaining classes will be open as usual and we expect all pupils from open classrooms, to attend school as normal. We will send a message out via email and text on the morning of Thursday 2nd March to reaffirm the above and alert you as to whether any **additional classes** will be affected, in the unlikely event of a teacher exercising their right to inform us on the day of the industrial action.

Although striking teachers are not able to set remote learning activities on the day, if you would like to access online learning materials for your child please visit the Oak Academy website on line classroom. If your child (in one of the classes listed above) usually receives a free school meal and you would like to collect it from school on this day, please notify the school office as soon as possible.

Please be assured this action is not against the school itself but is part of national industrial action organised by the NEU regarding teachers' pay and lack of funding in education. As a school, we are fortunate to have so many brilliant, and hard-working, teachers, we know they do not undertake industrial action lightly, and we hope that the Government can resolve this matter as soon as possible.

We recognise and apologise for the inconvenience caused by this strike action – thankfully all children will be in school on Friday and where we will celebrate World Book Day together. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Kind regards,

Paula Carlton

