



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

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



Friday 27th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to update you, regarding our contingency plans during the planned strike action for next week.

The National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that their members intend to take formal industrial action, by striking on 1st February 2023. This action is not against the school itself, but part of a national industrial action related to teacher pay, conditions and funding and is between NEU members and the government.

## Industrial Action Wednesday 1st February 2023

A significant number of our teachers have opted to participate in this strike. We had considered a partial closure as a result. However, we have made the decision that all children should attend and arrive as usual, as we have sufficient HLTAs and non-class-based staff who will teach across the school on that day. Although this does mean that many staff will be working with different year groups on the day.

There will, as a result, be some disruption to the learning process, teacher absence and the use of remaining colleagues. This means following the core curriculum will not be possible. At times classes will be combined or work collaboratively.

There will, however, be a school focus on E-Safety learning, Art, PE, and buddy reading. **All children should come to school wearing PE kit.** It is worth sharing that schools have no legal requirement to teach the national curriculum on strike days and our approach will be adopted by many schools.

To ensure the health and safety and effective safeguarding of all our students, it has been necessary to rearrange the following events:

- Due to the strike action at other schools, there will be limited staff in the kitchen and therefore we will be unable to provide hot school dinners. All children will need to bring a packed lunch.
- Hedgehogs Class trip to Salisbury Fire Station has been rearranged for the following week. Parents will receive information about this next week.
- The Year R Parent Maths Workshop has been postponed and will now take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 2:30pm.
- There will be no Art Club after school.
- All other clubs and wraparound care will operate as normal.

Please be assured that we have adopted this approach with the best interests of your children first and foremost. It is also underpinned by our risk assessment which validates the staff/pupil ratios, health and safety and safeguarding provision. **It is important to note that these plans are subject to change**, as many of our staff have children at other schools who could potentially close on the strike day. Our current plans rely heavily on support staff availability.

At this stage we have not made any decisions regarding the remaining days of industrial action. We will continue to follow national guidance and a decision about each day nearer the time.

Kind regards

*Paula Carlton*

