

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important: Strike Action Dates

Following the announcement earlier this week by the National Education Union (NEU), strike action will be taken by NEU members in this region on the following dates:

- 1 February 2023
- 1 March 2023
- 15 March 2023
- 16 March 2023

This letter is to give you context to the challenges we are facing and what steps we are likely to be taking to minimise the disruption to learning.

Please be reassured that we will do everything reasonable to keep the school open; however, this will depend on the information I am able to obtain regarding the number of colleagues taking strike action, and the impact this will have on each year group.

It may be that we remain open for some year groups while others are asked to stay at home. Where necessary, we will give further guidance for these groups in our next communication. If a group in school would have been taught by a colleague taking strike action, I will attempt to ensure the group is supervised. An additional challenge is the limited number of staff I am able to direct to cover for striking colleagues. The guidance for all schools and academies is available from the Department for Education and I have copied a link to it [here](#).

Over the next week I will gather as much information as possible so that appropriate decisions may be taken by the end of the week. The safety of our students remains my absolute priority. If I am unable to guarantee adequate staffing levels, I will need to make the decision for some students to remain at home. At this time I can say that the strike action will not affect Carpenters and Shepherds Class and for some of the days Fishermen Class.

Thank you for your patience while we plan for the days listed above. It may be that the Department for Education and the National Education Union, along with the other Unions taking part in joint discussions, are able to resolve the dispute in the meantime.

Kind regards,

Laura Concannon

Head Teacher

St Marys Catholic Primary School.

