RC/JAE

10 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Potential Strike Action by NEU Members on Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March 2023

Unfortunately, further strike action will be taking place across schools in England again next week. I am anticipating the impact over the two days may be more disruptive due to these days being national days of action rather than local events. The NEU and Department for Education do not, at this point, seem any closer to resolving issues around pay, funding for schools, and staff recruitment issues.

Once I have a clearer picture of the members of staff taking strike action, I will communicate a plan of action for the two days next week.

Again, we will be able to offer an alternative timetable for any pupil that cannot be supervised at home. If you believe you will need to access this essential provision on **Wednesday 15 March and/or Thursday 16 March 2023,** please email Mrs Tonks on h.tonks@portchester.hants.sch.uk or call on 023 9236 4399.

The pupils who are eligible for a free school meal will be able to collect a packed lunch from 12.30 pm by waiting in main reception.

Most members of staff will communicate their intentions in advance of the strike days and will, therefore, support planning in advance. The NEU have advised members not to inform the school until the day of action. Thankfully, most Portchester School staff will communicate their intentions in advance and this will support planning.

The dispute is between teaching unions and central government and is not a local despite between staff and the school.

I understand that this is causing significant disruption to school and families' lives. I can only hope that this dispute will be resolved soon.

More information to follow early next week.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

Successful Learners – Confident Individuals – Responsible Citizens