



RC/JAE

26 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU Teachers' Union have declared strike action, which will take place on Wednesday 1 February 2023. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over pay, funding and recruitment issues and not because of any issues at our school. Union members do not need to inform schools that they are taking action until the day of action. Thankfully, most staff here at school have provided information about action. Others have yet to declare their intentions.

BBC information: Why are teachers striking? It is about pay, funding for schools and recruitment.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies says teachers' salaries in England fell by an average of 11% between 2010 and 2022, if taking into account rising prices.

Most state-school teachers in England and Wales had a 5% rise in 2022. In Northern Ireland, many teachers were offered 3.2% for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

In Scotland, teachers have rejected both a 5% increase and a more recent offer of up to 6.85%.

Unions say inflation means the pay increases are really cuts and they want schools to be given extra money to ensure rises do not have to come from existing budgets.

Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan, says the government has already agreed to an extra £2bn in school funding, 'which will take real terms spending on schools to its highest level in history'.

I am getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible that learning may be disrupted on Wednesday 1 February 2023. We are considering several options, including moving some lessons online and closing the school.

The full list of projected strike days are as follows:

**Wednesday 1 February 2023: All eligible members in England and Wales.**

Tuesday 14 February 2023: All eligible members in Wales.

Tuesday 28 February 2023: All eligible members in the following English regions: Northern, North West, Yorkshire & The Humber.

Wednesday 1 March 2023: All eligible members in the following English regions: East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern.

**Thursday 2 March 2023: All eligible members in the following English regions: London, South East, South West.**

**Wednesday 15 March 2023: All eligible members in England and Wales.**


**Thursday 16 March 2023: All eligible members in England and Wales.**

**Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)**

**Portchester Community School**

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We recommend that you start to make alternative childcare arrangements for the highlighted dates.

I am sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Portchester Community School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you of the final arrangements as soon as possible. I will write again and place information on the school website and Twitter feed.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle  
Headteacher




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