

Friday 24th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

1 February (whole country)	28 February (Northern, North West, Yorks & Humber)	15 March (whole country)	16 March (whole country)
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As you may have seen, the National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that their teaching members will be taking industrial action in the form of strike days. The next proposed strike days are Tuesday 28 February, Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March. We will update you of the plans closer to these dates as the Secretary of State is meeting with trade unions to try to resolve the outstanding issues.

Whilst we have been informed of these proposed dates, and we are informing you of them so you can plan your own arrangements, please presume that the school will be open to all until we confirm otherwise ahead of each date; this will be via our normal text service*

This action is not against Outwood Primary Academy Kirkhamgate itself but is part of national industrial action organised by the trade unions about salary negotiations with the Department for Education.

Neither the Outwood Grange Academies Trust Board nor myself as Principal are legally allowed to close the academy in sympathy with the strike, and we will not do so. However, our main concern is the health and safety of our students. The academy will only close (partially or fully) if, in our opinion and following a full risk assessment, it is not safe to remain open.

The academy will be open as normal to all students and students should arrive ready for the usual 8.45 am start.

As we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, the decision to partially or fully close may have to be taken at the last minute. However, every effort will be made to give notice - at the latest by the day before.

*In order to ensure that we can communicate any changes to these plans at short notice; which may include on the day itself, we are asking parents/carers to ensure that we hold up to date emergency contact details. If you do need to make any changes, please send to our dedicated email address for this purpose enquires@kirkhamgate.outwood.com. We will always endeavour to minimise disruption as much as possible.

We understand that there will be concerns about the disruption but we want to give you this advance notice and thank you in advance for your patience and understanding at this time.

Yours faithfully

Lisa Cooke
Head of School