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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

Thursday, 26 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Teaching members of the NEU have called a series of one-day strikes, starting on Wednesday, 1st February 2023. I am writing to inform you that Church Stretton School will be open to all students on Wednesday 1st February as only a few teachers at Church Stretton School are members of this union. There may be some changes to the usual pattern of the lessons for some, but most classes will be unaffected.

Staff not participating in the industrial action will be working in school on the day of the strike as usual; however, teachers are normally instructed by their own unions not to undertake the duties normally carried out by their striking colleagues. This includes covering the teaching of lessons, and breaktime and lunchtime supervision normally carried out by their striking colleagues. There will, therefore, be supervision of some classes by an external cover teacher/supervisor. The Senior Leadership Team will ensure break and lunchtime duty areas are supervised to maintain the safety of students during breaktimes.

The NEU have written to all schools to explain the reasons for the strike action, which are due to a dispute with the Government and not with individual schools or Trusts, they say:

- The dispute is to correct “historic real terms pay cuts. Teachers have lost 23% in real terms since 2010 and support staff 27% over the same period.”
- They want the pay deal to be funded from the Government rather than found from stretched school budgets.
- They want government action to address problems with recruitment and retention in our sector.

As things stand, this could also affect our school on the following dates, when further strike action is planned:

- Wednesday, 1st March 2023
- Wednesday, 15th March 2023
- Thursday, 16th March 2023

Please note that each planned strike day may lead to different arrangements so I will write to confirm further details nearer to the dates given.

Thank you for your understanding, we will endeavour to ensure that the strike days are managed as effectively as possible for our students and families, especially our examination groups.

Kind regards,

John Parr
Headteacher