

TEACHING STAFF - INDUSTRIAL ACTION

23rd January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, I wrote to you last week outlining the news that the NEU – the largest teaching union – would be taking industrial action on the following dates:

Wednesday 1st February

Thursday 2nd March

Wednesday 15th March

Thursday 16th March

Please understand that teachers are striking against the national education policy and resourcing in schools, and not against the children they work so hard for every day. Having entered caring professions, teachers and nurses never want to disadvantage their pupils or patients. They are not taking a day off (striking workers are not paid when they withdraw their labour) but they are left with no option to affect change.

This action is being taken for several reasons:

- The teaching profession is facing a severe recruitment and retention crisis.
- The education sector has been critically underfunded for years and it is increasingly difficult to adequately finance high quality education for your children.
- The recent pay award was below inflation, plus schools were not given the money in their budget to fund this pay award.

I'm getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible that learning may be disrupted on these dates. At this stage we're considering several options. As you will know, we are only able to open the school if we have enough staff to keep everyone safe.

Whilst we are not yet able to confirm whether the academy will be open on 1st February (and the subsequent strike dates), please start to think about alternative childcare arrangements for these dates.

I'm 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. Oasis Academy Byron 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.

Kind regards,

