

BEN/PGD

20 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

You might have seen in the news this week that teacher members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to strike. This is in response to an ongoing national dispute with the government over pay and working conditions; the dispute is not with Ken Stimpson Community School. As you will have read, watched, or listened to on the media this dispute is more about pay but about ensuring your child has a qualified teacher teaching them moving forward as the recruitment crisis looms.

You can find further information about the strikes and NEU's motivation on their [website](#). The strikes in our region are planned to take place on:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Wednesday 1st March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

NEU is one of the largest trades unions for teachers and support staff, and we are aware that a proportion of our staff are members of the NEU. It is, therefore, very likely that we will be impacted in considerable way, and we cannot discount the possibility that some staff will be affected by their child's school being closed and require a childcare day.

Ken Stimpson Community School leadership team is working to put a contingency plan in place. We will also be taking advice to ensure best practice in managing any disruption to our normal service.

As always, our priority will be to provide care for our vulnerable pupils, and after that, we will attempt to prioritise those currently studying for their tests and exams. However, as NEU members do not have to inform until the day of each strike that they are exercising their right to carry out industrial action, I need to balance the safeguarding, health and safety and quality of education at the foremost when to decide to partially, or fully, close the school.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. We will be in touch as soon as we can to confirm the arrangements for these dates.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Erwin

Principal