



Dear Parent/Carer,

As I am sure that you have seen in recent media reports the National Education Union (NEU) on Tuesday announced that its ballot of teacher members in England has met the thresholds required to commence industrial action and the NEU has given us the required notice that they will call members to strike on those dates. The ballot of support staff members in England failed to achieve the 50% turnout required by law.

The NEU has announced national and regional action in England on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Tuesday 28 February 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

This does not include other staff from other unions, although the NEU makes up the vast majority of our teaching staff, and therefore we will ensure that learning continues for as many children as possible. It's typical that lessons will feel different during a strike but it's still important that every child has a valuable learning experience and we expect children to be in school if at all possible.

Having spoken to staff, the Headteachers and Principals are currently planning the following arrangements for their academies on 1st February. **These arrangements are draft and subject to change; individual Headteachers and Principals will contact you directly with details of provision.** Provision varies between schools dependant on individual staff numbers available. Our priorities are, in line with DfE advice, to offer provision for vulnerable children and those of critical workers, as in the Pandemic, and those in exam years.

West Lakes Academy: Year 13 and Year 11 will be in school for supervised private study and taught lessons. Currently it is likely that the Academy will be closed to all others in Years 7 – 10 and Year 12. Staff will set online learning for core subjects and private study for these students. Provision will also be in place for vulnerable students.

Arlecdon and Thornhill Primaries: Open for all pupils. Provision for two year olds may not be possible and parents will be advised of this shortly.

Dearham Primary: Open for all pupils except nursery, which will be closed. Vulnerable children may be offered provision in reception on strike days.

Flimby Primary: Closed for all pupils except Year 6 and vulnerable pupils.

I would like to recognise that I understand the frustrations of many teachers, something we have seen documented by recent industrial action in other professions. We all know that the last few years have been very difficult for many people. I am immensely proud of the collective efforts of the staff and pupils of our Trust this year and I look forward to updating you of exciting developments for the Trust and our academies in the coming weeks.

To confirm, we will be operating as close to normal as possible for those children identified on each of those dates. We will also provide remote learning where it is not possible to ensure the health and safety of the children should we have too few staff available. We're aware that your child has lost many learning hours during the pandemic and that's why we are doing everything we can to keep as many children in school on those days as it is possible and safe to do so. We ask for your support in working with us to make sure we do the best we can for your children in these circumstances.

Academy leaders will contact you directly with further details about individual academies in due course. In the meantime, please contact your child's school if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely



Judith Schafer
Deputy CEO



Main Street, Egremont, Cumbria CA22 2DQ

t: 01946 820356 **e:** contactus@changinglives.education **w:** www.changinglives.education