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**'Educating For Life In All Its Fullness'**

## Strike Action by Members of the National Education Union

Dear Parents,

You will be aware that recently some teaching unions conducted ballots of their members regarding strike action in relation to the underfunding of school budgets. While the ballots all showed that a majority of members responding were in favour of strike action, only the NEU, which represents the largest number of teachers in England and Wales, received a sufficiently large postal response to ensure that any action taken would be legal. The NEU has announced four days of strike action, which for this region will be **Wednesday 1st February, Tuesday 28th February, Wednesday 15th March** and **Thursday 16th March**. Teaching staff in other unions will be working as normal on these dates.

As regards Harewood, where teachers are following union advice and taking strike action, we will not be able to cover their absence. As required by the DFE, we have looked at the possibility of covering the classes in a number of different ways using other staff. This is not going to be possible. Unfortunately, this means that some classes will be closed on days when action is being taken, and pupils in those classes will not be able to come to school. Therefore, on **Wednesday 1st February** the following classes will be closed:

- Class 1 (Reception)
- Class 3 (Years 3 and 4)
- Class 4 (Years 5 and 6) - Morning Closure Only

Class 2 will remain open and pupils in this class should attend as normal. Pupils in Class 4 should also attend in the afternoon from 1.00pm. Where classes are closed, home learning will not be provided by school, as the members of staff will be striking. If families wish, they could use any available time to complete homework, reading books and look at other online learning which is available. This may include online learning from the Oak Academy or the BBC schools website.

Unions have informed staff taking action that they do not need to tell schools if they are taking industrial action until the day of the strike. The staff involved at Harewood did not think that this last minute disruption to families was fair or the right thing to do and wanted to give as much time as possible to enable alternate plans to be made. They also wish me to let families know that it is with great regret that they have taken the decision to follow union directives which are responding to the current funding situation in schools. They are fully aware that this will cause disruption to families, learning and impact their own earnings but in the long term, the strike action's aim is to help schools and the children they work with.

Similar disruption is expected on the other affected days listed above, which may affect the same classes or others. As soon as details are confirmed, we will let you know. We regret the inconvenience that this will cause to families, and sincerely hope that, by providing sufficient notice you will be able to make alternative arrangements.

These are exceptional times, and we can only hope that the dispute between unions and the Secretary of State for Education can be resolved speedily.

Mr A. Ratcliffe  
Headteacher

