



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust



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Headteacher: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)

26 January 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: NEU Strike Action on Wednesday 1 February 2023 (Day 1 of 4 proposed days of strike action)

As you are aware, the NEU (National Education Union) have given notice of strike action which affects 4 school days over the next 2 months. As a result, there are a number of things that we have to take into account before making a decision as to whether or not we can open the school to pupils on that day, particularly questions around Health and Safety and whether we will have enough staff to be able to manage the school day safely.

Due to staffing numbers, we are **NOT ABLE TO OPEN** to pupils on the first day of the strike – Wednesday 1 February – apart from those Year 11 pupils who have an examination that day, and “Vulnerable Pupils” identified by school. Vulnerable pupils will fall into one of the following groups:

- A pupil Looked After by the Local Authority
- A pupil who is on the Safeguarding register
- A pupil who has an EHCP
- A pupil with identified high level SEND needs

A space for these pupils to work in school will be made available if it is required. These pupils will not attend lessons in their usual classrooms, but will follow their usual timetable via TEAMS lessons in a computer room. Pupils attending school will be expected to wear full school uniform.

There will be **no school lunches available on Wednesday 1 Feb**. All pupils will be required to bring a packed lunch to school with them. Any parents / carers of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) will receive a payment into their bank account as we did at Christmas with the additional winter grant funding. If your bank details have changed, or you have not shared them with us, please ensure that you contact finance@venerablebede.co.uk as soon as practicable.

Arrangements for Wednesday 1 February:

The school will be closed to pupils on Wednesday 1 February only. We will be open every other day that week.

Those Year 11 pupils who are involved in examinations (BTEC Digital IT) on Wednesday 1 February should **attend school** that morning at the **usual time**, making sure that they are in the yard by **8.30 a.m.** These pupils will be registered in the school hall and then taken to their exam room to complete the exam, which lasts for 1.5 hours. Pupils will be dismissed from school after the exam, and they will need to make their own way home.

Pupils who have been identified as vulnerable, and who have been invited to work in school will start school at the usual time of 8.30 a.m. When these pupils arrive at school, they should **report to the Main School Office to be signed in and registered**. They will then be taken to the room in which they will work that day.



As far as possible, all other pupils will be able to log on to TEAMS, from home, using their school Email account and take part in “TEAMS lessons” with staff who are teaching in school. Pupils have had training on how to do this when they joined school, but here is a [LINK](#) to the resources page of the school website, where you will find all key information needed to access TEAMS lessons, FOLDR and how to learn remotely. TEAMS lessons are scheduled to begin at 9.15 a.m. which will coincide with the start of Period 1. During the day, lessons will begin and end at their usual scheduled time ([CLICK LINK](#) to School Day).

What we do not know is how many teachers will be in school and available to deliver TEAMS lessons. The rules of the strike action are such that teaching staff are not obliged to tell school, in advance, whether they are available on Wednesday 1 Feb. Other teachers might also be absent due to illness that day, or might need to be absent from work to look after younger children whose school may also be closed. This means pupils will need to log on to Teams to see if their teacher is available. We are hopeful that the vast majority of lessons will be able to be delivered on TEAMS.

There are also some ‘**Enrichment Activities**’, which have been placed into a folder within the student resources area of FOLDR, for pupils to access should any of their lessons not be running on Wednesday 1 Feb. In this way, we hope that all pupils will be able to engage in meaningful learning throughout the day.

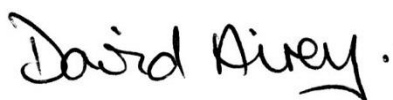
If a pupil is not able to access online learning due to a lack of a device to access the internet, please make contact with us via the following [LINK](#). We will do our very best to help.

We appreciate that you may have some further questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us using the following email (venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk) or via the following [LINK](#). We will try to respond to any queries as quickly as we can.

We will be completing a further risk assessment with regards to the other 3 days of proposed strike action, (Tues 28 Feb, Wed 15 Mar and Thurs 16 Mar) in due course and information regarding these dates will be released closer to the time.

Finally, thank you for your understanding during these testing times. We appreciate that this situation is not ideal for anyone. However, we are doing our best to support our school community at this time.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Airey
Headteacher

