

Thursday 9 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

15 March (whole country)	16 March (whole country)
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As you may have seen, the National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that their teaching members will be taking industrial action in the form of strike days. The third and fourth date is Wednesday and Thursday 15th and 16th March.

This action is not against Outwood Primary Academy Lofthouse Gate itself but is part of national industrial action organised by the trade unions about salary negotiations with the Department for Education.

Neither the Outwood Grange Academies Trust Board nor myself as Principal are legally allowed to close the academy in sympathy with the strike, and we will not do so. However, our main concern is the health and safety of our students. The academy will only close (partially or fully) if, in our opinion and following a full risk assessment, it is not safe to remain open.

On Wednesday 15th March, the school will remain open to all children in all classes.

On Thursday 16th March, 4C and 3JA will close. All other classes will remain open.

Whilst the academy will be closed to some students, online learning via Google Classroom will be available to all students and students will be expected to complete the work set.

Children in 4C and 3JA in receipt of free school meals may attend between 11:30 and 12pm for their lunch.

As we may not know until very late how many staff will be available to work, the decision to partially or fully close may have to be taken at the last minute. However, every effort will be made to give notice - at the latest by the day before.

Please note that this decision has been made based on the completion of a robust risk assessment with the information that the academy has at the moment; this is subject to change at the last minute so we recommend that parents have a contingency plan in place in

case there has to be further closures at the last minute. In this instance, we will communicate any further information with you as soon as we have it.

The academy will open as normal to all children who should arrive ready for the usual 8.45am start.

*In order to ensure that we can communicate any changes to these plans at short notice; which may include on the day itself, we are asking parents/carers to ensure that we hold up to date emergency contact details. If you do need to make any changes, please email enquires@lofthousegate.outwood.com. We will always endeavour to minimise disruption as much as possible.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Hewitt
Principal