

Friday 24th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

As I am sure you will be aware, the National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that their teaching members will be taking industrial action in the form of strike days. The next date scheduled is Tuesday 28th February.

This action is **not** against Outwood Junior Academy Brumby 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.

As it stands, I am confident that the academy will be open as normal to all pupils on Tuesday 28th February. Pupils should arrive ready for the usual 8.35 am start. However, as we may not know until the morning of the strike, how many staff will be available to work, the decision to partially or fully close may have to be taken at the last minute. We will of course endeavour to give as much notice as we can.

I appreciate that this uncertainty is frustrating but the rationale for potential last minute changes is that teachers do not have to inform me if they intend to strike or not. Teachers can change unions and join the striking union before Tuesday. Teachers may also have their own child care issues from other school closures which may also be last minute.

*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 send to our dedicated email address for this purpose enquires@brumbyjunior.outwood.com. We will always endeavour to minimise disruption as much as possible.

We understand that there will be concerns about the possible disruption but we want to give you this advance notice and thank you in advance for your patience and understanding at this time.

The next potential dates are Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March but we will update you of the plans closer to those dates as the Secretary of State is meeting with trade unions to try to resolve the outstanding issues.

Whilst we have been informed of these proposed dates, and we are informing you of them so you can plan your own arrangements, please presume that the school will be open to all until we confirm otherwise ahead of each date; this will be via email and our normal text service.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Tait
Principal