



Bristol Free School  
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Headteacher: Mrs S. King

24 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Teacher Industrial Action - Wednesday 1 February 2023**

You may be aware from media coverage that the largest teaching union, NEU, has declared strike action, which will take place on 1 February, 2, 15 and 16 March. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and un-costed pay rises that have impacted on school budgets, and not because of any issues at Bristol Free School.

**I am sorry to inform you that Bristol Free School will be closed on Wednesday 1 February. We are asking you not to send your child into school on this day. Further strike days will be reviewed nearer the time.**

We have not taken this decision lightly. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students and feel that we would be unable to provide safe supervision with the staff we may have available. For your information, staff do not need to inform school until the day of the strike that they are taking strike action, so we have no idea of the number of staff who will be in school that day.

On Wednesday 1 February, we plan to provide remote teaching via Microsoft Teams for the lessons where your child's subject teacher is in school and not striking. It will not be possible to provide a teacher for every lesson that day due to the high numbers of teachers who we anticipate will be striking. I will be asking subject teachers present that day to set their lessons in Teams between 8.30am to 9.00am so your child can check to see which lessons will be taking place.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, we will provide you with a meal voucher.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

If you have any questions, please contact my PA, Mrs Eynon, at [s.eynon@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:s.eynon@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

Kind regards

Mrs S King  
Headteacher