

21 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

National Education Union - strike action for teachers

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 dates scheduled are Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May.

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.

We have made the difficult decision to close the academy on the 27 April to classes 3JR (previously 3JA), 4C and 4H. The academy will be open as normal at 8:45am to all other classes on this date. Once we have confirmed the risk assessment, we will update you again about the plan for closures for the 2 May.

Whilst the academy will be closed to children in classes 3JR (previously 3JA), 4C and 4H, online learning via Google Classroom will be available to all students and students will be expected to complete the work set. Children in these classes, in receipt of free school meals may attend between 11.30 and 12 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.

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@lofthousegate.outwood.com. We will always endeavour to minimise disruption as much as possible.

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

Yours faithfully

Mrs Hewitt
Principal