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Mr Paul Laycock  
Headteacher

24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will have seen in the media that *The National Education Union* have voted to stage strikes citing inadequate funding for schools and poor rates of pay for education staff. It is therefore likely that the country - and subsequently Wigginton Primary School - could see significant disruption on the days listed below.

I therefore wanted to send this letter out to you so that you are aware of the proposed dates and can make any necessary emergency arrangements should your child be affected. I also wanted to inform you about how we will coordinate our response on each of these days.

The full list of projected strike days affecting schools in York are as follows:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023: all eligible members in England and Wales.
- Tuesday 28 February 2023: all eligible members in the following English regions: Northern, North West, Yorkshire & The Humber.
- Wednesday 15 March 2023: all eligible members in England and Wales.
- Thursday 16 March 2023: all eligible members in England and Wales

(These may be subject to change should any agreement be reached)

Union members are not obliged to inform employers if they intend to strike. They may tell us if they plan to attend work on the morning of that day, which is in line with our school's normal absence policy. This therefore makes it very difficult for schools to assess and plan adequate staffing levels in advance of strike days.

Therefore, on each of these mornings, we will aim to notify families **by 8am** if a class is to be closed. We will email and text only for classes that need to close. If you do not hear, please assume your child's class is open. The Department for Education expects the headteacher to take all reasonable steps to keep the school open for as many pupils as possible.

**Please be aware of the above dates and, if necessary, prepare for the possibility of requiring emergency childcare. Keep in mind that if your child's class is closed, they would be unable to attend school.**

We understand the impact that this may have on children and working families and, equally, are respectful of our colleagues' rights to take legal industrial action if they wish. As a school, we remain completely neutral in situations such as these and we naturally value your patience and understanding as we try to navigate a difficult national situation.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Laycock  
Headteacher