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INDUSTRIAL ACTION

18th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware all the teaching unions are currently in dispute with the Government and the DfE. One union, the NEU, has a legal mandate for industrial action - which will affect schools in our area on:

- 1st February
- 2nd March
- 15th and 16th March

Every class teacher in St Mary's is a member of the NEU. I have spoken to each of them individually and can share with you the outcomes of those discussions. There were three main strands to their responses, which were remarkably unified:

- A very strong sense of professional imperative to take action alongside their colleagues nationally
- A very strong sense of moral imperative to ensure that our children do not miss out on 'one off' opportunities
- A very real concern amongst some of them that they would not be able to afford to take action on all 4 days

I can now inform you that:

- **St Mary's will be closed for all pupils on Wednesday 1st February**
- The 4SW and 4CW trip to Bough Beech has been moved to 9th February
- The Year 5 Residential to Dorset will go ahead as planned. ***This is because all the teachers in year 5 have told me they will NOT take action on 2nd March to ensure that the trip can go ahead. I thank them for this.***

I am only in a position to give you such clear advice because our teachers have gone beyond what is required of them in law and given us all an opportunity to plan ahead. We are trying to navigate these unprecedented times in a way that is true to our school values, and I ask for your support in doing the same. We are all certainly being 'challenged to contribute'! I hope and pray that you will find it in your hearts to support our wonderful teachers, who give so much to our school and our children, despite the disruption that this period of industrial action will bring to you all.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Lewis

Confidently Me Belonging Together Challenged to Contribute



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
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