

24 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

You will likely be aware that members of the education union The NEU have voted in favour of strike action, which is planned to take place on the following days in the South-West:

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

This is the result of a national pay dispute between unions and the government – it is not due to any actions taken by the school.

Due to the number of NEU staff at The Thomas Hardy School, attendance will be restricted on those dates. The school will be prioritising:

- Vulnerable pupils
- The children of critical workers

We therefore ask you to make alternative childcare arrangements, where needed, for these dates. We apologise for the inconvenience this may mean to you and to your child's education, and we hope the dispute can be resolved as soon as possible.

This week, our staff will be contacting families of students who are particularly vulnerable when not in school to plan for the strike days. If you are a critical worker and cannot arrange childcare for any of those dates, please email admin@thomas-hardye.net, letting us know which critical industry you work in and on which of the strike dates you need your child to attend school. I am aware this will be unnecessary in most cases due to the age of our students.

All staff not involved in the industrial action will set work for students on Teams, and will be available on Teams chat during the period of your child's lesson to answer any questions. We will review this arrangement after the first strike day on 1st February and communicate any changes to these arrangements in writing.

Yours sincerely

N Rutherford
Headteacher