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22nd February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

ADVANCE NOTICE OF STRIKE ACTION

You may be aware that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared strike action. Following the first day of action on 1st February, strikes on the following days are still planned to take place in the South West of England:

- Thursday 2nd March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

The strikes (if they take place) are happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school. However, I do appreciate that this will be frustrating for parents.

The majority of teachers at Gordano School are members of the NEU. Although we are aware of the overall numbers, the NEU are not obliged to inform us how many of their members intend to strike. As a result, should the strikes go ahead, this will result in significant disruption and severely compromise our ability to run the school safely. I cannot ask other teachers to cover for staff who are striking as this would be to undermine the strike and teachers' contracts protect them from such actions.

It is therefore likely that the school will only be able to provide a very limited service on any days where the strikes take place. I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education, but I want to give you as much notice as possible of this disruption and, whilst I really appreciate the inconvenience, recommend that you start to make any necessary alternative childcare arrangements for these days. It is also worth noting that each school may be in a different position as a result of the number of NEU members in their teaching staff.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

If the school is closed for your child(ren) they will be signposted to work that can be completed remotely. We will also make sure that students on Free School Meals are able to receive their meals for any days where they are not in school.

Thank you for your understanding as we try to do our best at this challenging time. We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you of the final arrangements for Thursday 2nd March by Friday 24th February 2023.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Blundell', with a small dot at the end.

Ms L Blundell
Headteacher