Lawnside Academy Lawnside Biggleswade Bedfordshire SG18 OLX





Website: www.lawnsideacademy.org.uk

Telephone: 01767 312313

E-mail: LSA-office@bestacademies.org.uk

Monday 23rd January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to in relation to planned industrial action that is likely to affect our school over the coming weeks.

Last Monday, the largest national trades union for teachers and non-teaching support staff, the National Education Union (NEU), announced that they had secured the necessary support in a ballot for industrial action. This is a national dispute with the government, not against our school. The dispute centres on pay and school funding.

Our priority will be to minimise any impact on the progress and well-being of our pupils. We take no collective position on the validity of the action being taken by the NEU and ask that you do not discuss the strike with members of staff. Similarly, staff will not discuss their personal views on the action with parents, carers and pupils.

We are not always aware of precisely how many employees intend to join strike action. Individuals are not under any obligation to notify us in advance. That can make predicting the impact of action difficult. We hope to be able to remain open as much as possible during the strike, but we are aware that a number of our staff are members of the NEU and that, consequently, some disruption is likely on the following planned dates:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Our main priority will be to decide if the school can open in the circumstances, taking into account all considerations including health and safety, safeguarding and staffing ratios.

We will write to you as soon as possible to communicate arrangements for Wednesday 1st February and will keep forward dates under review. Many thanks for your understanding.

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Johnson Head Teacher

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