

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have no doubt that you will be aware that the NEU have declared strike action that will be held during this term. The first of these dates is next Wednesday the 1st of February, with possible strike action taking place on the 2nd, 15th and 16th March. **St Paul's and All Hallows' will be closed on Wednesday 1st February.** We are asking you not to send your child into school on this day.

We have not taken this decision lightly. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils, and feel that we would be unable to provide this with the staff we have available.

While there will be much debate in the press about why these strikes are taking place, the simple reason that staff have chosen to strike is due to the chronic underfunding of schools. Teacher pay is one symptom of this underfunding, but there are many others. Essentially the majority of teachers feel that children's education is being damaged every day by strained school budgets and the challenges of recruitment.

We hold out hope that talks between the teacher unions and the government will be fruitful and that further closing due to the strikes will not occur. However, I'm getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible that learning may be disrupted on these dates.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr du Toit  
Head of Schools