



Oadby, Wigston and Leicestershire Schools Academy Trust

# OWLS Academy Trust

New Lubbethorpe Primary School, Tay Road, Lubbethorpe, Leicester, LE19 4BF

Tel: 0116 216 9963

26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As reported in the national press in recent days, you will no doubt be aware that members of one of the main teaching unions, NEU, have voted to take strike action over unresolved pay negotiations.

The proposed dates are currently 1<sup>st</sup> February (national), 1<sup>st</sup> March (East Midlands) and possibly also 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March (national). However, negotiations may continue between the unions and government and if an agreement is reached before the proposed dates, strike action will not happen.

Strike action will also only be taken by teaching staff who a) are a member of the striking union, and b) have voted to strike. Therefore, some schools may be less affected than others.

The teaching profession is not unique in its proposed strike action over pay, with other public sector professions also taking similar action. We place an extremely high value on the quality and continuity of education we provide for your child/ren, as well as value our highly skilled and experienced staff and the right for their voice to be heard.

To this end, we are working with all schools within The OWLS Academy Trust on alternative plans – should strikes go ahead – while following guidance from the Department for Education, to ensure minimal disruption to your child/ren's education. Our priority will always be to keep children on site and in lessons as normal, however, we know that – should we need it – we have outstanding online learning provision.

This is the current picture, but it could change. Other unions who didn't reach the threshold required for strike action may re-ballot, so further strikes could happen.

For now, we wanted to update all parents/carers on the current circumstances, but we will update further when we know if your child/ren's school will be affected.

Best wishes,

Peter Merry CEO, OWLS Academy Trust

## Message from Miss Hackett New Lubbethorpe Primary School

New Lubbethorpe Primary School will open as usual on the first strike date 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. The school will be fully operational and we will update you with regards to future strike dates and if plans change. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Headteacher