



Date 24/1/23

Strike Action Update

Dear Parents/carers,

As you will be aware from the media, the National Education Union, will be taking industrial action on a series of days this term.

The action will result in class or whole school closures across the country and teachers at The Firs will be taking industrial action on:

Wednesday 1st February and
Wednesday 15th March

The decision to close the school or send pupils home is never taken lightly, but in this instance, where nearly all the teaching staff have elected to take lawful industrial action, I will have no choice but to close the school to **all or most** children (to be determined), in order to ensure the health, safety and well being of all pupils.

Please note that Saplings will be **unaffected** by this and will open normally on these two days. Kids' Club will also be **open** before and after school on these days.

We are aware that school closures inconvenience parents and carers however and so I am writing to give you as much advance notice as possible of the likely impact of the action on the school.

Following Government guidance however, we would like to **try** (if our limited staffing availability permits) to keep the school **partially** open for more vulnerable pupils (about whom we will contact parents / carers separately) and children of '*critical workers*'. There would be a limited provision for children on these days as teachers cannot be asked to set work when taking industrial action.

To assist with our planning, I would be very grateful if you could email the school ASAP and by **Friday 27th at the very latest**, if you feel you are eligible as a '*critical worker*' and would like to have your child(ren) attend the Firs on the 2 strike days listed above.

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

The Firs Lower School • Station Road, Amptill, Bedford MK45 2QR
Telephone: (01525) 402735

Email: office@firslower.org • Web www.firslower.co.uk



To assist you in ascertaining whether you meet the criteria as a '*critical worker*', please see the guidance attached. Please note that to operate with very reduced staffing will be a challenge and in households with two adults, we will only consider children eligible if **both** parents / carers are '*critical workers*'.

I will write to all parents again next Monday (30th) to confirm whether the school will manage to open 'partially' for identified pupils.

Obviously lost learning time is a concern and these are very difficult circumstances to manage and I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam J.G. Campbell".

Adam J.G. Campbell
Headteacher