

Biddick Lane
Washington
Tyne & Wear
NE38 8AL

Tel: 0191 511 1600
Fax: 0191 417 2897

Headteacher:
Miss K Morris



Biddick
Academy

26th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, the NEU have declared strike action, which will take place on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over a wide range of issues within the profession and not because of any issues at our school.

I'm getting in touch to give you as much notice as possible about our arrangements for **Wednesday 1st February 2023**, however please be mindful that our plans could change at short notice.

It is our **intention to open Biddick Academy** to the **following students**:

1) Vulnerable children and young people as identified by the Department of Education criteria.

If we have identified your child as being vulnerable, we will contact you directly to establish whether your child is attending school on the above day.

2) Children of critical (key) workers as identified by the Department of Education

Please note, the government has strongly encouraged key workers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and to turn to schools only as a last resort.

If you feel that you meet the government guidance of being a key worker (see further details below) and that you are not able to keep your child at home on this day, then please contact **Mrs Maddison on 0191 511 1600 Ext 5003** to discuss this request.

To allow us time to plan accordingly, the deadline to speak to Mrs Maddison is **Monday 30th January 2023 at 12.00 pm**.

** Please note that students will be supervised but will not follow a normal timetable or have access to any taught lesson.**

No child should attend school on **Wednesday 1st February 2023** unless this request has been agreed by the school.

3) All Year 11 students due to take public examinations (GCSE's) in summer 2023

All Year 11 students are expected to attend Biddick Academy as normal, a separate letter will be sent to parents and carers of Year 11 students detailing the structure of the day.

This means that the **school will be closed to all students in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10** unless a student in these year groups has been identified as being vulnerable, or the child of key workers, which will be agreed upon request.

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Biddick Academy will provide students in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 with remote education. Students will be expected to complete the online work set. A separate letter with further details will be sent to parents and carers of Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 students with details of how to access this work.

Should your child normally be in receipt of a Free School Meal, we can prepare a packed lunch for them, to be collected on the day from the school reception.

Please contact **Mrs Maddison** on the number stated above to arrange this by **Monday 30th January 12.00pm**. School transport will operate as usual.

I'm sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

Biddick Academy remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

If you have any questions, please contact **Mrs Nairne - White at 0191 511 1600** or

Nairne-White.F@biddickacademy.com

Kind regards,

Mr Delf

Acting Headteacher

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