Dear parents and carers

As you are already aware from my previous message and the media, the National Education Union (NEU) has declared strike action, the first date of which will take place on Wednesday, 1st February 2023. The Governors and I wanted to give parents as much notice as possible, hence the email today.

Guidance from the Department of Education (DfE) states that "Headteachers are expected to take all reasonable steps to keep the school open for as many pupils as possible."

Therefore we are writing to inform you that we are able to keep the majority of classes open on Wednesday, 1st February 2023. 

As directed by the DfE we have asked other members of staff to cover the classes of teachers who are taking industrial action however we are unable to cover all teachers who are taking strike action.

**Therefore, the following classes will be closed on Wednesday 1st February 2023:**

**All year 4 classes: Y4R, Y4G and Y4W**

**Y5R**

**Year 1 Butterfly Class**

**Year R Caterpillar Class**

Please be aware that employees are not required to tell their employers whether they intend to take strike action, however we hope to avoid further closures. If other members of staff do decide to strike, we will inform you immediately.

In the event of unexpected staff illness on 1st February, we would have to close additional classes.

If your child is in one of the classes affected by strike action **and** is eligible for a 'Free School Meal' (not Universal Free School Meals), please advise by emailing adminoffice@harrison.hants.sch.uk by Friday 27th January if you **would**like to collect a packed lunch from us on 1st February.

**Further strike action by the NEU in the south east is scheduled for:**

**Thursday 2nd March, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March 2023.**

We are sure that you are aware that the NEU's dispute is with the government, not our school or Governing Body. I anticipate that this situation may inconvenience parents, as it will many of our staff who are parents - and ask parents for their understanding at this time.

Regards

Sara Gmitrowicz, Executive Head teacher, and David Moorman, Chair of Governors