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February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, the media have been reporting on a potential 'strike' by students across the country on Friday about climate change. I have written to students about this – please see the message below. The contents are relevant to parents.

Yours faithfully

Mark Wignall
Headteacher

"Dear all,

I have received an anonymous letter from a student asking the school to support a 'strike' by students on Friday to protest about climate change. There has also been coverage of this in the media this week.

Climate change is a very real and hugely important issue for everyone on the planet and I applaud and admire young people who are passionate about this and who want to make a difference. Every person on the planet has a responsibility to be a part of the solution to this very serious problem.

Unfortunately, as a school (and because we are a school) we cannot support any action that would cause disruption to our community, this includes disruption to learning and also disruption to staff in carrying out their day to day duties. A student 'strike' would fall into both of these categories and therefore we cannot support it – we also have a duty to keep students safe and we could not be confident in this if we allowed students off site.

The school would not be able to support parents who allowed their children to attend a 'strike' in school time as by law we can only authorise term-time leave in exceptional circumstances.

I would be willing to meet with student representatives to discuss action that we can take as a community to add our voices to the growing tide of concern about climate change and its effect on the planet. We have a school council meeting on 1 March and this could be a great opportunity to discuss this.

Best Wishes

Mr Wignall"

