

What's happening in the news?



Let's have a look at the poster

Teacher Strikes



Why are there teacher strikes?

Let's look at the story



Some teachers in England and Wales will be going on strike over pay and conditions, meaning some schools may close for a few days in February and March. Many teachers are members of unions. The largest education union in the UK, the National Education Union (NEU), asked its members to vote on whether to take this action and more than 90% voted to strike.

On strike days, teachers who are part of the NEU, will not work, so some schools will be closed to pupils.



Learn more about this story [here](#).

Watch the useful video [here](#).



Look at the information below about the teacher strikes and share your thoughts with others.

Why are teachers taking strike action?

Teachers' unions argue that the 5% pay rise teachers in England and Wales received last year, is actually not an increase at all, with many teachers in fact left with less money because of inflation. Inflation is thought to be at around 10% and sees the cost of things like food and fuel increasing. The cost of living crisis is having a big impact on teachers too.

We want an above-inflation pay rise to help teachers tackle the cost of living crisis. When the government can't get teachers to join the profession and can't get teachers to stay in the profession, in the end that becomes unsustainable and that's where we are now.

Dr Mary Bousted, the NEU general secretary.

1 February: All schools in England and Wales

14 February: All schools in Wales

28 February: North and north-west England, Yorkshire and Humber

1 March: East Midlands, West Midlands, and the NEU's eastern region

2 March: South-east and south-west England, and London

15 and 16 March: Two-day strike of all schools in England and Wales

Shown above: The dates of the proposed strikes.



Main question

Why are there teacher strikes?

 **Listen**  **Think**  **Share**

- > Look at the poster image and talk about the upcoming teacher strikes. Share what you already know.
- > Read through the news story and discuss reasons why some teachers are choosing to take action. Talk about how it could be a very difficult decision for many teachers.
- > Read the information found on Resource 1 and watch the useful video, which provides questions from children about the strikes with answers from their teachers.
- > Head teachers are expected to try to keep schools open, where possible, during the strikes, following advice in the Department for Education (DfE) guidance. It's likely that many schools will close temporarily as a result of the strike action. Teachers' unions are required to give two weeks notice of a strike in order to give schools and parents time to prepare. It's thought that for many schools, children will be continuing learning online. Can you remember when you last had online learning?

Useful Weblinks

- > News story:
www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-63283289
- > Useful video:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7TJhXzCXA