



TalkforWriting



22nd November 2023

Teaching Unions Half Day Strike Morning of Wednesday 29th November 2023

Dear Parent,

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the teaching unions in Northern Ireland. You may have seen coverage of this in the news and I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have on our school.

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Teachers involved in the action will, therefore, not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties before 12 noon on the strike day. This is a dispute between teacher unions and the employers; it is not a dispute with the schools. This is not a strike just about teachers' pay. Teachers are taking strike action due to cuts to teachers' pay and the lack of adequate funding and support for schools which together are causing a crisis in Education.

Clearly, this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would, however, ask for your understanding. A strike by teachers is very unusual and not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Where staff have elected to take lawful industrial action, schools and Boards of Governors, will have no choice but to take appropriate steps to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all pupils.

Upon risk assessment, I have determined that it is not possible to operate our school safely during the strike, as a sufficient level of assistance will not be available during the morning session to safely supervise children and deliver lessons as per normal routine. Therefore,

Our school will be closed to all pupils until 12 noon on Wednesday 29th November 2023.

On Wednesday 29th November 2023

- There will be no Breakfast Club
- School doors will open between 12:00pm and 12:10pm, with children entering as per the normal morning routine
- Dinners will be served from 12:15pm, if your child requires a dinner please let the class teacher know the day before (to help prepare the kitchen)
- Packed lunches should be brought to school as normal
- Milk/fruit (usually taken at break time) will be distributed at lunch time
- Home times and any after school activities will run as normal

Best regards

Mr W Wright
Principal