

Wednesday 8th November 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

RE. Day of strike action by non-teaching staff on 16th November

The Education Authority (EA) informed the school of the expected disruption to some school services as a result of industrial action notified by UNISON.

This action consists of action short of strike as well as a full day of strike action on **Thursday 16th November 2023**.

I am writing to outline the expected impact on our school. The Governors and I are aware that a significant number of our essential staff will be taking part in this action and therefore after considering all the risks and challenges this will cause have determined that it is not possible to operate the school safely during the day of strike, and therefore will be closed for pupils and will not operate on that day.

This means that reception will not be covered, and teachers cannot be contacted due to the teacher's action-short-of-strike.

Clearly, this is a difficult situation, which will cause disruption and I thank you for your understanding.

Strike action is not something that any member of the school staff undertakes lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike. It is vital that the Department of Education and Education Authority understand fully that the work of our staff is vital and needs to be paid appropriately.

The staff in our school are invaluable to the learning, development and safeguarding of your children and I, along with the Board of Governors, feel strongly that they should be paid fairly for the essential and significant jobs that they do.

Thank you again for your support and understanding. The school will commence as normal on Friday 17th November 2023.

Regards



Jonathan Gray

Principal