

St. Catherine's Primary School

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22 November 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Half day strike action by teachers on 29 November

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 we wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

How will strike action affect St. Catherine's Nursery and Primary 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 12.00 noon on the strike day. A detailed risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.



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Therefore, as Principal and in consultation with the Board of Governors I have determined the school will be:

- Closed until 12.15pm on Wednesday 29 November for Primary 1 – Primary 7 pupils.
- Nursery will be open for Nursery pupils from 12.15pm until 1.30pm on that day and can avail of school dinner if they wish.
- Nursery, Year 1 and Year 2 Pupils should enter school through the same doors that they use every morning but on this day no earlier than 12.15pm (so that staff will be there to receive them)
- Year 3 and 4 pupils should line up at their usual places outside the Junior School no earlier than 12.15pm where staff will escort them into school.
- Year 5,6, and 7 pupils should line up at their usual places outside the Senior School no earlier than 12.15pm where staff will escort them into school.
- School Dinners will operate as normal from 12.15pm. Children who normally bring their own packed lunch to school for lunchtime may do so as usual on this day.

Due to this day happening straight after our mid-term break and to give the school canteen an idea of numbers can you indicate on the survey <https://forms.office.com/e/kkfBX1APEW> if your child or children will be taking dinners on Wednesday 29 November (free or paying). (Menu on this day will be sausages and chips and beans with ice cream dessert). Please complete the survey NO LATER THAN 12 NOON on MONDAY 27th November.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. We would ask you, however, to be understanding. A strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake 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.

We thank you in anticipation of your support and understanding in this matter.

Kind Regards

Bridget Wilders
Principal



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