



9th February 2023

Dear Parent /Guardian

Half day strike action by teachers on 21 February

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 at our school.

How will strike action affect St Columban's PS?

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 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.

As the Principal, I and the Chairman of the Board of Governors have determined the school will be:

- **CLOSED on Tuesday morning 21st February**

Pupils should arrive at school AFTER 12.05pm on Tuesday the 21st February.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I 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.

It is also hoped that this action will highlight the huge underfunding that currently exists in the education sector.

School Dinners:

Can I ask that if your child is attending school on Tuesday afternoon 21st February and they wish to avail of school dinners can you email our secretary Sandra on **Monday the 20th February** – sdolan654@c2kni.net so we have approximate numbers for dinner.

Midterm:

Reminder - please note the school will be **closed** from Monday 13th February – Monday 20th February (**inclusive**)

Yours sincerely

Mr L. Magee
Principal

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