**St Brigid’s PS**

**Castle Street**

**Ballymoney**

**BT53 6JX**

**Principal: Mr Kieran O’Neill**

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**Tel: 028 2766 2664**

**Monday, 08 January 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Full day strike action by teaching and non-teaching unions on 18 January 2024**

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the teaching and non-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 Brigid’s PS?**

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Staff involved in the action will, therefore, not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties on the strike day. A risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact that the action will have and to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As the Principal, I [and the Board of Governors] have determined the school will be: **Closed to all pupils on Thursday 18 January 2024.**

This is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A strike by school staff is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any member of staff would undertake lightly. Any member of staff who makes the decision to go on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike.

This period of industrial action will be recorded in the register as ‘attendance not required’ therefore not affecting the children’s attendance records.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as always.

Yours faithfully,

Mr O’Neill (Principal)