**St Brigid’s PS**

**Castle Street**

**Ballymoney**

**BT53 6JX**

**Principal: Mr Kieran O’Neill**

**koneill580@c2kni.net**

**Tel: 028 2766 2664**

**Tuesday, 21 November 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Half day strike action by teaching unions on 29 November 2029**

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 Brigid’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(es) or undertake any other duties before 12.00 noon 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 until 12.15 pm on Wednesday 29 November.**

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. Any teacher 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.

**What about pupil transport?**

EA Transport Service has confirmed that the school transport network can continue to operate as normal on 29th November. However, it is not feasible to redesign the full school transport network (inclusive of EA vehicles, Translink and private operators) to bring children to school for 12.15 pm.

If you have any further queries regarding transport provision, please contact: **Transport Unit 028 9598 5959**

**What about school meals?**

School meals will be served as normal. Please let the school know on the Monday 27th November if your child/children will be taking meals on Wednesday 29 November.

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)