



Dear Parent

HALF DAY STRIKE ACTION BY TEACHERS ON 21 FEBRUARY 2023

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 WHITEHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT?

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 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 have determined that there is no alternative but to close school to all pupils until 12.05pm on Tuesday 21 February. The Board of Governors have been informed.

- **At 12.05pm (when the gates are opened) all children should proceed directly to their classroom.**
- **Lunch will operate as normal beginning at 12.10. Those children who wish to have a school dinner should sign up on School Money and all other children should bring a packed lunch.**
- **All children will finish school at the usual time and after school activities will take place as normal.**

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. 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.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Loughins', written in a cursive style.

J LOUGHINS
Principal