



St. Columba's Primary School

2 Duncastle Road, Newbuildings, Derry, BT47 2QS

Phone: 028 71 347190

Principal: Mrs Caroline Callan

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

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 Columba'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 is currently being conducted which considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As the Principal, with the BOG we are awaiting further information from EANI and CCMS to determine the specific school arrangements for this day, but it is already evident school will not be able to open for all pupils until 12pm. I wanted to give you early notification to be able to plan childcare arrangements for this morning. School will reopen for all pupils at 12pm and dinner will be provided for children who wish to pay and those who are entitled to FSM.

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.

We will update you on specific arrangements for 21st February early next week when the risk assessment is completed and finalised.

Kind Regards

Mrs Caroline Callan