



**St Eugene's Primary School**

Victoria Bridge

Strabane

BT82 9JH

TEL: 028 8165 8439

lgormley873@c2kni.net

9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**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 that this is likely to have at our school.

**How will strike action affect St Eugene's Primary School?**

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 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.

**In consultation with the National Association of Head Teachers, I have determined that the school will be unable to open until 12.00 noon on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of February.**

Children should instead arrive to school for 12.00 noon and proceed to the Hall for their lunch or dinner. If you wish your child to take dinner on the Tuesday, please make sure that this is ordered on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of February.

Children in Reception can attend school from 12 noon until 2.15pm on this date.

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 and has come after a long period of industrial action relating to workload and the financial crisis in education to which the Management Side at EA and DE have failed to respond. 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.

Yours sincerely

*Laura Gormley*

**Principal**