



St Patrick's Primary School

75 Mullinahoe Road Ardboe BT71 5AU

Principal: Mr. Joe Canavan

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30/05/24

Dear Parents/Guardians

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June there is a full day of planned strike GMB, UNITE and NIPSA Unions. That includes bus drivers, school catering staff, classroom assistants, cleaners, and other support workers. This is a dispute between Non-Teaching unions and the employers; it is not a dispute with the school. This strike action will result in disruption to normal school provision on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Where staff have elected to take lawful industrial action, we will have no choice but to take appropriate steps to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all pupils. We know that strike action is an inconvenience to parents and so I am writing to give you advance notice of the impact this action will have on our school.

**The school will be closed to all pupils on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.**

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June there is also planned strike action and our school kitchen will be closed. We would therefore ask parents to send pupils in to school with a substantial break. This break will be eaten in classrooms as the school canteen will not be in use. Parents who wish to collect all their children in one lift can tell pupils in classes P4, P6 and P7 to inform their teachers.

**On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June children are to be collected early at the following times;**

**P2 to P3 pupils at; 12:30 pm**

**P4, P6 and P7 pupils at; 1:00 pm**

**Our Tyrone Football Finals Day, P1 Trip and P5 Trips will continue as planned on Tuesday.**

**The P1 trip will return to the school for collection at 1.30 pm, P5 trip will return for 2.00 pm.**

**There will be a message sent directly to parents of the children involved in the football finals day regarding their return time on Tuesday.**

We continue to fully support the union members and understand their anger and frustration. Our school workers are paid less than the national minimum wage. School support staff are among the lowest paid workers in the education sector. School bus drivers, classroom assistants and school catering staff are paid significantly less than the current national minimum wage despite the invaluable work they do.

Regards

Mr Joe Canavan

**Together We Pray, We Play, We Learn, We Grow.**