**Full day of strike action by teachers and school leaders.**

**SCHOOL CLOSURE - Wednesday 26 April 2023**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you on behalf of St.Patricks PS and as a member of the North Down Primary Principal’s Group, about forthcoming strike action by the five 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 will have at our school, if as expected, the strike action goes ahead.

**How will strike action affect St Patrick’s PS ?**

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Staff members involved in this industrial action will therefore not undertake any duties on 26 April. A detailed risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact 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.

The Board of Governors has determined that on **Wednesday 26 April 2023** we will be **closed for all pupils** and **will reopen** as normal on **Thursday 27 April 2023**.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. This is a very unusual circumstance and is the direct result of the failure to take into account the very real concerns expressed by teachers and school leaders. Taking strike action is not something that anyone 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,

C O’Neill

Principal

**The North Down Primary Principal’s Group consists of the following schools.**

*Ballyholme PS, Ballymagee PS, Ballywalter PS, Bangor Central PS, Bloomfield PS, Carrowdore PS, Clandeboye PS, Crawfordsburn PS, Donaghadee PS, Glencraig IPS, Grange Park PS, Holywood PS, Kilcooley PS, Kilmaine PS, Kircubbin IPS, Kirkistown PS, Millisle PS, Portavogie PS, Rathmore PS, Rockport School, Sullivan Prep, St Malachy’s PS, St Comgall’s PS,* ***St Patrick’s PS****, Towerview PS, Victoria PS.*