**DROMORE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Principal: Mrs S McGrath BEd MEd**

13th November 2023

**Strike Action – Thursday 16th November 2023.**

Dear parents/guardian

We have been notified by the Education Authority (EA) that members of the four non-teaching trade unions (UNISON, UNITE, NIPSA and GMB) are being called to take part in strike action on Thursday 16th November 2023 in relation to a trade dispute linked to EA Pay and Grading Review. Staff members involved in this industrial action will, therefore, either not undertake any duties on the 16th November 2023 or alternatively take part in a 2-hour stoppage strike action. This will mean a disruption in service for school transport, school meals, classroom assistants, building supervisors and admin staff.

A detailed risk assessment has been carried out which considers the impact 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. Therefore, due to health and safety reasons, it has been determined that we will be **closed for all pupils on Thursday 16th November 2023 from 9-11am** and will reopen as normal **at 11am**. Clearly this is a very difficult situation, which will cause major disruption to parents, but we are unable to operate safely without our support staff.

Pupils should bring a **packed lunch** on Thursday 16th as the strike action is likely to disrupt the provision of school meals from St Dallan’s kitchen. Afterschool activities are anticipated to run as normal in the afternoon.

I cannot overstate the importance of the many roles our non-teaching staff play within school and the value they bring to our school community, so I thank you in anticipation for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

S. McGrath

(Principal)