|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *ST FRANCIS’ PRIMARY SCHOOL*24 Donard View RoadLoughbricklandBanbridgeCo. DownBT32 3LN🕿 028 4062 8044E.Mail: info@stfrancis.aghaderg.ni.sch.uk | E:\2021.22\School Crest 2018.bmp |

 19.4.23

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

 I am writing to you 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 is likely to have at our school.

How will strike action affect St. Francis PS Aghaderg?

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 the school will be closed for all pupils on Wednesday 26 April 2023 and will reopen as normal on Thursday 27 April.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause 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.

We appreciate the impact this has on our pupils, their families and their parents and we recognise the inconvenience this places on households with working and caring commitments. Unfortunately, the concerns expressed by teachers and school leaders regarding the multitude of cuts to services for our pupils, the degradation of pay and the persistent failure to fund, resource and maintain our schools adequately have not been listened to. Therefore, we are asking our families to share their concerns with local MLAs, in hopes that our combined voices are heard.

[www.naht.org.uk/writetoyourMLA](http://www.naht.org.uk/writetoyourMLA)

Yours in continued partnership,

S. McKeown