****

Campsie Road

Omagh

Co. Tyrone

BT79 0AJ

Tel: (028) 8224 2642

22nd November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Half Day Industrial Action by teachers on Wednesday 29th November**

As you already know teachers have been called to strike action by all Teaching Unions on Wednesday 29 November.

Our teachers haven’t wholeheartedly embraced Action Short of Strike and have continued to provide additional opportunities for pupils, such as After School Activities and Booster Literacy and Numeracy Classes in Year 6 and 7 to support both children and parents outside the teaching day. In short, staff continue to go above and beyond what is expected of them at this time of Action Short of Strike.

We are blessed in Omagh County PS and Nursery with staff who are pupil focused and I am personally grateful for all they do in putting the needs of pupils first and upholding the reputation of our school.

In escalating Action Short of Strike Action, all Teaching Unions have called for a half day strike on the morning of 29 November. Teachers are not obliged to inform me of their intention to strike/not to strike and can change their mind right up to the morning of the strike.

However, staff are only too aware that their decision will impact you as parents. With the information we are already in receipt of, school governors and myself have conducted a risk assessment and have concluded that to safeguard pupils, it will be necessary to close school to all pupils on the morning of the strike. Therefore, I am advising you that **school will be closed for all pupils until 12 noon on Wednesday 29 November.**

School gates will open for pupils at 12 noon and the rest of the school day will continue as normal.

To the best of my knowledge, there will be no EA Bus to transport pupils to school for a later start. Therefore, parents will need to organise their own transport to school. The EA bus service however will be available at 3:00pm.

This is a difficult situation and taking strike action is a decision we as a staff have not taken lightly. We feel we need to take this action and stand with our counterparts in the other Unions. 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. The increasing workload, underfunding at school level and lack of movement around pay, in comparison to all other parts of the UK and Ireland, is crippling the profession.

We are as ever, fully committed to the children we have in our care but can see on a daily basis the detrimental effect this is having on their education.

We realise that this action will cause some disruption and as a staff we value the support of our parents and the school community and I trust that everyone will understand why staff feel that they need to take action.

Kind Regards,

J. Funston

Principal