



# Mountnorris Primary School

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**Principal:**

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Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You may already be aware from the media about the planned teacher strike on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November. I apologise for not writing to you sooner; however, as before, I was waiting for clarity from the Unions so I could inform you of the impact that this will have on our school. The UTU Teaching Union stated the following, 'The decision has been taken in light of the fact that, despite recent and frequent calls to the Secretary of State, to our local politicians and to the employers, no movement has been made towards any resolutions of the pay impasse, or, indeed, to seek funding to enable us to properly resource our schools and properly provide a service for the children in our care.'

After receiving guidelines from both the Education Authority and Ulster Teachers' Union earlier this week, I completed a risk assessment to consider the impact that 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. In light of this, the school must **close for all pupils on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November until 12noon**, but we will:

- **commence the school day at 12.00 noon – 1:50pm / 2:55pm (pupils will not lose their attendance mark for the first half of the day)**
- **provide dinners as usual for all children – please ensure bookings are made in advance**
- **provide after school clubs as normal**
- **provide school bus at home-time as normal**

I recognise that this is a very difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. However, I would ask for your understanding. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly and those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision. Sadly, each day all of our teachers and school leaders are, 'papering over the ever-growing cracks in our system which only got worse since the beginning of the academic year' (UTU).

Yours sincerely,

Mr Michael Foster  
Principal

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