

STEELSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL and NURSERY UNIT

40 Steelstown Road, Derry BT48 8EX

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22nd November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: INDUSTRIAL ACTION

On the morning of Wednesday 29th November 2023 teaching staff will engage in a half day industrial action.

Following a risk assessment, it will be necessary for all children to engage in remote learning at home from 9.00am to 12noon. The children should access their online learning programmes, Reading Eggs/ Accelerated Reader and Mathletics. Please note that the school will open at 12 noon and canteen provision will be available. The children in years 1-4 should enter the school at this time via the front door and go straight to the hall. Children in P5-P7 should go directly to class. Nursery pupils will be served dinner as normal.

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. The responsibility to resolve this dispute lies squarely with the Department of Education and our local government. To make your feelings known about that damage that is being done to our schools, the teaching profession and, of course, our children, you can write directly the following people, in addition to your own local political representatives:

Sara Long, CEO: Education Authority, 40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1

sara.long@eani.org.uk

Eve Bremner, CEO: CCMS, Linen Hill House, 23 Linenhall Street, Lisburn, BT28 1FJ

eve.bremner@ccmsschools.com

Mark Bailie, Director of Workforce: DENI, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19

mark.bailey@education-ni.gov.uk

Mark Browne, Permanent Secretary: DENI, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19

Yours faithfully

Catherine Doorish
Principal
