

Our Ref: MR/LK
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Date: 30 August 2022



Education Department
Council Offices
211 Main Street
Barrhead
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Dear Parent/Carer

Further to the communication you received regarding potential strike action, this letter is to inform you that all schools and early years establishments in East Renfrewshire will be closed on 6, 7 and 8 September 2022 due to industrial action. As you will be aware the industrial action affects cleaners, janitors, pupil support staff, administration and business support staff, technical staff and catering staff. The Education Department's aim, as always, is to secure a safe environment for our staff and young people and maintain continuity of learning where possible but regrettably after reviewing staff availability in each establishment we have reached the conclusion that it would be unsafe to open on these days given the extent of the action and the number of staff involved.

I understand that the industrial action will cause significant disruption to the learning of our children and young people and that families will have to make alternative arrangements for childcare during these days. I am sorry for the inconvenience this will cause.

While the Council has been formally notified by trade unions of their continued intention to strike, there is also the possibility that through ongoing negotiations the strike may not take place. The department will keep you informed as the situation develops through the Council website <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/5323/Strike-action>.

If you use add-on care in one of the Council's early years establishments then this service will not be available on the days of the strike. Any payments already made will be deducted from your future charges. For those pupils who are eligible to receive free school meals and have completed an application, a payment will be made to the parent or carers bank account to provide support through the school closure period. A payment of £7.50 will be made for each child (£2.50 for each of the 3 closure days) and will be in your account by Wednesday 7th September. Please note, the payment will be made using the bank account details supplied for the payment of any other benefits paid by the Council.

Your child's school will contact you to outline arrangements that they are able to put in place for learning activities on the days of industrial action.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Ratter'.

Mark Ratter
Director of Education

