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| TO ALL PARENTS/CARERSPRIMARY, EARLY YEARS and SPECIAL SCHOOL SETTINGS |  | **EDUCATION & CHILDREN’S SERVICES** |
| Carrie Lindsaycarrie.lindsay@fife.gov.uk 03451 555555 ext. 48021820 December 2022  |

Dear Parent/Carer

**Fife Primary Schools (including their associated nursery classes), Special Schools and Primary Pupil Support Centres will close to pupils on Tuesday 10th January 2023 and Wednesday 18th January 2023, due to ongoing teacher industrial action**

I want to bring to your attention that the Teaching Trade Unions have not yet reached an agreement regarding a pay settlement. As a result, Fife Council has received statutory mandates from the EIS, AHDS and NASUWT regarding their next planned industrial action. The action will affect the above educational establishments on Tuesday 10th January 2023 and Wednesday 18th January 2023 and will create significant disruption to our education settings. Once again, we won’t know in advance how many of our teachers will join the planned strike action. However, we do know that most union members voted in favour of action and most took part in the industrial action in November, so we expect a continued high level of participation.

As you will appreciate, we cannot open our buildings to children and young people, or provide cover across all classes and subjects, without sufficient teachers and school leaders. So, even though some staff may come to work, we’re unlikely to be able to run any of the above educational facilities safely, on these days.

Therefore, to help families plan, I am writing to advise that we have made the difficult decision to close the above shown educational establishments on Tuesday 10th January 2023 and Wednesday 18th January 2023, should there be no change in terms of the pay negotiations. A decision regarding any required closures of our Family Nurture Centre early years settings and Childcare Services will be confirmed as soon as possible.

I know this may be challenging or inconvenient for many families. I fully appreciate how difficult it is for parents, carers and pupils when we must close some, or all, of our schools and I can only ask for your continued patience and understanding.

Pupils will continue to have access to a wide range of online learning resources and educational games, and more senior pupils will have work and study they can continue with, on their own, at home.

Should the industrial action go ahead, a direct payment for school meals, covering these two days of industrial action, will be made into the bank account of a parent/carer where children are registered for free school meals (FMR). This payment will be made week commencing 9th January 2023.

Those educational settings, shown above, will reopen as normal on Wednesday 11th January 2023 and then again on Thursday 19th January 2023.

For those parents/carers who may also have a child who attends a secondary school, we have also received statutory mandates from the teaching unions planning to take industrial action. Please note the dates for the closure of secondary schools, due to teacher industrial action, are *Wednesday 11th January 2023* and *Wednesday 18th January 2023.*You will receive a separate letter advising you of the arrangements for Secondary schools.

We will update parents immediately if the dispute is resolved, plans change, or further action is notified.

Yours faithfully,



Carrie Lindsay

Executive Director (Education & Children’s Services)