

COMMUNITIES & EDUCATION DIRECTORATE
Head of Service (Education): Andrew McClelland
Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE
Tel: 01294 310000
www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Your Ref: Our Ref: AMcC/LB

If telephoning please call: 01294 324443

20 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Industrial Action by members of UNISON

This letter provides information on the ongoing national dispute over local government pay. We have received formal notification of intended strike action scheduled for next week, which will impact on the Council's ability to maintain service continuity if these strikes go ahead. The planned strikes will take place on:

Tuesday 26 September 2023

Wednesday 27 September 2023

Thursday 28 September 2023

Strike action is planned for members of UNISON, affecting all schools across North Ayrshire. Staff involved in this industrial action include classroom assistants, early years practitioners, administration staff, technicians, janitors, cleaners and catering staff. These staff groups provide vital support services to education and are essential to ensure the normal operations of the education service. Given the significant number of staff who are members of this trade union, and following an assessment of health and safety and other operational factors, we have concluded that it will be necessary to **close all North Ayrshire schools for the three days of the intended strike action (Tuesday 26 – Thursday 28 September).**

Early Years service provision will also be significantly affected on these dates. **All early years classes and early years centres will be closed with the exception of Springvale Early Years Centre**, which will operate normally as a standalone facility.

On the days of strike action, where pupils are affected by school closures, packed lunches will be provided to any affected pupils entitled to a free school meal. Children and/or parents affected by school closures are encouraged to go to their own school (or nearest school) on strike days between 11.00am and 1.00pm where they can collect a packed lunch.

I understand that this industrial action will cause significant disruption to learning for the children and young people of North Ayrshire and that you will have to make alternative arrangements for childcare during the strike days. I am sorry for the inevitable inconvenience this will cause.

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

We are of course aware that negotiations are ongoing which, if successful, may result in the planned strikes being called off. Should anything change prior to the announced strike days, we will ensure you are informed as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Andrew McClelland
Head of Service (Education)