

Educational Services

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Our Ref: LMcR//LD Your Ref:

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Dear Parents and Carers,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION AFFECTING SCHOOLS ON TUESDAY 10th, WEDNESDAY 11th and WEDNESDAY 25th of JANUARY 2023

I am writing to you with an update regarding the discontinuous industrial action, by various teaching Trade Unions, impacting on the Council's educational services.

For the forthcoming strike action on Tuesday the 10th and Wednesday the 11th of January 2023, as we cannot guarantee staffing levels will be sufficient in our schools, and in considering the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils, unfortunately there will be a required full closure of our schools as follows:

Primary and Special School Closures – Tuesday the 10th of January 2023

The Association of Heads and Deputies in Scotland (AHDS), the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) and the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) have confirmed their intention to take strike action on Tuesday 10th of January 2023. This will result in the required closure of all South Ayrshire Council **primary schools and special schools** on this day.

All SAC secondary schools and the five standalone Early Years Centres noted below will be unaffected on Tuesday the 10th of January 2023 and will operate as normal:

- Cherry Tree Early Years Centre
- Girvan Early Years Centre
- Prestwick North Early Years Centre
- Space Place Early Years Centre
- Wallacetown Early Years Centre

Secondary School Closures – Wednesday the 11th of January 2023

The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) and the Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association (SSTA) have confirmed their intention to take strike action on Wednesday 11th of January 2023. This will result in the required closure of all South Ayrshire Council **secondary schools** on this day.

All SAC primary schools, special schools and Early Years Centres will be unaffected on Wednesday the 11th of January 2023 and will operate as normal:

Educational services can confirm that all SAC schools, early years centres and special schools **will open as normal** on Thursday 12 January 2023.

I am aware that, on these two days of industrial action, free school meals will be required by many of the young people affected by the aforementioned closures. As such, arrangements for families entitled to means tested free school meals will be as follows:

On Tuesday the 10th of January 2023, when all South Ayrshire Council **primary schools and special schools will be closed**, packed lunches will be made available for collection from your nearest primary school. Pre-prepared packed lunches consisting of a bottle of water, piece of fruit and a sandwich (cheese or turkey) can be uplifted between 12:00 – 13:30 on the afternoon of this day.

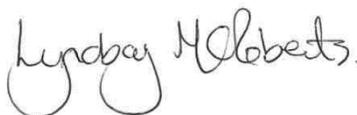
A collection desk will be set up at the front door of each primary school and a member of staff will be present to assist any children and families wishing to collect a packed lunch. If any child has a special diet plan in place and they require a particular sandwich filling, we would ask that our catering teams are notified of this, **no later than 12pm on Friday the 6th of January 2023**. Special dietary requests, including the child's name and school should be sent to catering@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

On Wednesday the 11th of January 2023, when all South Ayrshire Council secondary schools will be closed, families entitled to means tested free school meals will receive a payment for every eligible secondary school pupil affected by the industrial action on this day.

The next planned date for industrial action by the teaching Trade Unions **is Wednesday the 25th of January 2023**. As various teaching Trade Unions have confirmed their intention to strike on this day, it is anticipated that all SAC primary, special and secondary schools will be required to close to pupils. Parents and Carers will be provided with more information on this next day of strike action nearer the time.

I am also aware that the closure of our schools will cause an inconvenience to families, however, we cannot operate safely without the required number of staff in schools and I thank you for your understanding at this time.

Yours sincerely



Lyndsay McRoberts
Director of Education