

## Educational Services

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Our Ref: LMcR//LD Your Ref:

Date: 16 January 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **RE: INDUSTRIAL ACTION RESULTING IN THE CLOSURE OF ALL SAC SCHOOLS ON WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2023**

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

For the forthcoming strike action on Wednesday 25 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 all South Ayrshire Council operated primary, secondary and special schools on this day.

Only the five standalone Early Years Centres noted below will be unaffected by the strike on Wednesday 25 January 2023, and these 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

All primary, secondary and special schools affected by the industrial action will return to operating as normal on Thursday 26 January.

I am aware that on the day of the strike, 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:

Every South Ayrshire Council primary school will pre-prepare packed lunches consisting of a bottle of water, piece of fruit, and a sandwich (cheese or turkey) and these can be uplifted between 12:00 – 13:30 on the afternoon of the Wednesday 25 January.

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.

Secondary school pupils entitled to free school meals can also collect a packed lunch from their nearest primary school. Packed lunches will not be available for collection from the Council's secondary school locations.

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 Monday 23 January 2023. Special dietary requests, including the child's name and school should be sent to [catering@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:catering@south-ayrshire.gov.uk).

Following the strike on 25 January 2023, the next planned dates for industrial action by the teaching Trade Unions, which will result in the closure of all South Ayrshire Council operated primary, secondary and special schools, **are Tuesday 28 February and Wednesday 01 March 2023**. A further three days of rolling strike action will affect SAC schools between 13 March and 21 April 2023, however dates for these strikes have yet to be confirmed. When the Council receives notification of the dates of these future strike days, Parents and Carers will be provided with the relevant information on how SAC schools will be affected.

I am 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyndsay McRoberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'L'.

**Lyndsay McRoberts**  
**Director of Education**