Principal: Mrs S O'Doherty
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**GLOBAL
LEARNING
Programme**

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9th November 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian

Day of strike action by non-teaching staff on 16 November 2023

The Education Authority (EA) has warned of expected disruption to some school services as a result of industrial action notified by UNISON. It is also anticipated that other Unions will also be participating in strike action on that day. This action will consist of action short of strike as well as a full day of strike action on 16 November 2023. I am writing to outline the expected impact on our school.

How will strike action affect St Mary's Primary and Nursery School.

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. A detailed risk assessment to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike has been conducted that considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum.

As the Principal, I and the Board of Governors have determined the following:

The whole school will be closed to ALL pupils on Thursday 16th November 2023

Clearly, this is a difficult situation, which will cause disruption. I ask you, however, to be understanding. Strike action is very unusual and taking the step of strike action is not something that any member of the school staff undertakes lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike. The staff in our school are invaluable to the learning, development and safeguarding of your children and I, along with the Board of Governors, feel strongly that they should be paid fairly for the essential and very challenging jobs that they do.

If this situation changes we will notify you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

PRINCIPAL