

NMcD/HM

08.03.23

John Muir House
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 3HA
Tel 01620 827827

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to my letter of 20 February 2023 in regards to strike action, I am writing to advise that three further days of strike action on 15th, 16th and 17th March 2023 have been declared by the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS).

As you may be aware through the media, the EIS is balloting its members on the recently revised pay offer with the ballot closing on Friday 10th March 2023. The EIS has not suspended strike action for next week, it has only suspended strike action this week whilst the ballot is carried out. If a majority of the votes recommend accepting the offer, then all strike action next week and thereafter in pursuit of the 2022/23 pay dispute will be cancelled. If the outcome of the ballot is to reject the offer then strike action on the aforementioned days will continue. Technically, therefore, next week's strikes remain "on" as they have not been cancelled. We are therefore planning in anticipating that the strike action will go ahead and all services affected have discussed the impact that this action will have on the health and safety of our children and young people given that there will be a significantly reduced number of teaching staff, including some of those in leadership positions in our schools.

The following will be the case, unless the outcome of the ballot is to accept the revised pay offer. I will advise you of the position either way.

Wednesday 15th March 2023 (EIS - all teachers in Primary schools only)

All East Lothian Council Primary schools will be closed to all pupils for learning on Wednesday 15th March 2023

- Lets in Primary schools for breakfast, after school and sports clubs can continue
- All ASN and Home to School transport will not operate for Primary pupils
- **Please note that Early Learning and Childcare settings will be open as usual.**

Thursday 16th March 2023 (EIS - all teachers in Secondary schools only)

All East Lothian Council Secondary schools will be closed to all young people for learning on Thursday 16th March 2023

- All ASN and Home to school transport will not operate for Secondary pupils

Friday 17th March 2023 (EIS all teachers in Primary and Secondary schools)

All East Lothian Council Primary Schools and Secondary schools will be closed to all children and young people on Friday 17th March 2023

- Lets in Primary schools for breakfast, after school and sports clubs can continue
- All ASN and Home to School transport will not operate for Primary and Secondary pupils
- **Please note that Early Learning and Childcare settings will be open as usual.**

A BACs payment will be made for those children and young people who qualify for a free school meal under the income threshold and whose schools are closed

As I have said in previous letters, I understand the disruption that this causes to our families however I must prioritise ensuring the health and safety of our children and young people.

While the formal notification from the EIS states their intention to strike on these days, there remains a possibility that the revised pay offer will be accepted and that the strikes are called off. I will keep you informed of any further developments and arrangements via our website and your child's school as soon as I can.

Yours sincerely



Nicola McDowell
Head of Education