

Ballynure Primary School Newsletter

Website Ballynureps.org

17th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

EA MESSAGE FOR PARENTS RE: PLANNED INDUSTRIAL ACTION – MONDAY 21 MARCH TO SUNDAY 27 MARCH 2022 INCLUSIVE

We recognise the need to ensure parents are kept informed of any impacts as a result of the industrial action.

We would therefore be grateful if you could please share the below message on any school digital communication channels you utilise.

The Education Authority (EA) has warned of expected disruption next week to some school and youth services as a result of a notified 7-day strike by Unite the union from Monday 21st March to Sunday 27th March.

The EA are working hard with schools, youth services and our partners to minimise any disruption to children and young people caused by the industrial action. However, despite this, there will be disruption to some services caused by the industrial action by Unite.

While the majority of schools and EA services are expected to operate as normal or with minimal disruption, the impact is likely to be most significant across some transport, school meals and cleaning services.

It is also anticipated that there will be an impact on a number of Special Schools, particularly IN THE greater Belfast area, as well as Antrim and Newtownabbey, and Mid and East Antrim Council areas, as regular transport for children may not be available, and there may also be a number of Classroom Assistants, who are Unite members, taking part in the Industrial action.

We encourage parents to check the EA website for regular updates of any planned disruption here: www.eani.org.uk/industrialactionupdates.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support in relation to this.

Yours Sincerely,

Robbie McGreevy

EA Assistant Director, Human Resources and Corporate Services

TEACHER SHORTAGES

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate our way through the Covid19 pandemic which is still very much with us. Recent weeks have not been easy for parents, children or teachers/head teacher and non-teaching staff. Although I have to say I really did enjoy teaching the different classes this week. The best bit of the job always was and still is the children. Thank you for your kind and encouraging words of support which are really helping to boost morale at this time.

Tomorrow Mrs McClean is unable to be in school again and she will send work home with her class today. I am sorry that it is the same class again.

By way of reassurance for parents, Mrs Moore (P6) and Mrs McClean (P3/4) have both forwarded the work from their normal planning to the substitute teachers and myself. This was work the pupils would have done in school had those teachers been here themselves. This has ensured continuity in the planning as they return to school to teach the children again themselves. The planners which Mrs Moore is using are those of Mrs McIlroy/P6, who has been our substantive P6 teacher for a good many years. We wish Mrs McIlroy well as she recovers from a long bout of illness and hope she is back with us soon.

There continues to be staff shortages across schools, particularly a shortage of available teachers. I only get notification from staff in the morning before school starts because a staff member does a lateral flow test and phones me to say it is positive. Rearranging classes takes priority and many other aspects of school work/life cannot happen as normal. Teachers cannot respond to emails during the day as they are teaching a class of 20 – 30 children, following which they have marking to do and planning and preparation for the following day. Head/teaching staff's paid working day ends at 3.45 pm and 3.05 pm on Fridays. Overtime does not exist for heads or teachers. Head/teaching staff are doing their best to send work for pupils to do remotely and/or respond to parents/carers whose children cannot come to school because they have Covid19. Head/teachers may not be able to respond promptly. Please understand that we are doing our best, life will get better and hopefully we will be back to normal soon.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

The school photographer will be in school to take Year Group, family and individual photographs on Tuesday 10th May.

ADVANCE HOLIDAY NOTICE 2022

Easter Holiday Monday 11 – Friday 22 April inclusive. Friday 8th April 12.00 noon finish.
May Day Monday 2 May 2022

UKRAINE APPEAL

Together as a school we have raised a total of £409.07 for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal. Thank you for your support.

WATER BOTTLES

Please ensure your child comes to school each day with their filled water bottle.

SCHOOL MEALS MENU

Monday 21st March – Friday 25th March

For further information on allergenic ingredients, please contact the school

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sausages, Peas Chips or Baked Potatoes & Fresh Orange & Yoghurt	Chicken Curry & Boiled Rice Naan Bread & Carrot Sticks & Chocolate Brownie with Fresh Fruit	Spaghetti Bolognaise Carrot Batons & Crusty Bread & Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt	Roast Pork, Baton Carrots & Broccoli, Mashed & Oven Dry Roast Potatoes & Gravy & Sponge with Fruit & Custard	Fish Stars, Beans & Mashed Potato with Crusty Bread & Tinned Fruit & Ice Cream

E Doherty
Principal