

Date: 20 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Industrial Action – School Based Non-Teaching Staff**

You may be aware from coverage in the media, that UNISON, the largest local government union in Scotland has indicated their intention to take strike action on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of September across Highland Council schools. This action is part of a national dispute regarding pay.

The safe supervision of children and young people is of the utmost importance and given that we anticipate significantly reduced numbers of support staff, including catering and cleaning staff, in schools and early learning and childcare settings, a decision has been made to close your child's school to pupils. I apologise for the inconvenience this will cause; however, it is hoped that by communicating this decision early it will allow parents/carers to plan ahead. We are working with Head Teachers to provide some on-line learning through the schools' hub

<https://sites.google.com/millburnacademy.org.uk/highlanddigitalschoolshub/home>

and/or pupils chrome books and you will be advised of the details of this by your school.

While the council has been formally notified by UNISON of their intention to strike, there are on-going discussions at a national level and this may result in strike action being averted, if this is the case then you will be notified of this through the council website [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) our social media platforms, as well as your child's usual school communication channels.

In summary, on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September:

- Your child's school/ELC setting will be closed to pupils.
- BACS payments will be made for those children and young people entitled to a free school meal on these days based on low income (not universal entitlement).
- School Crossing Patrols will not operate on these days.
- School Transport will not operate on these days.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Grant,  
ECO Education & Learning