



Principal: S Cumper  
info@hardingmemorial.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear P1 – P3 Parent/Guardian

There is no doubt in my mind that our children have missed their friends and the social development and emotional well-being they help to foster. There is no doubt they have missed the professional and pastoral guidance of their Teachers to direct them through their learning. There is no doubt they have missed the many varied and collective opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. There is equally no doubt that we as a staff have missed the daily interaction and involvement in the lives of our children. It is good that we now have a confirmed Starting Date for our Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 Pupils

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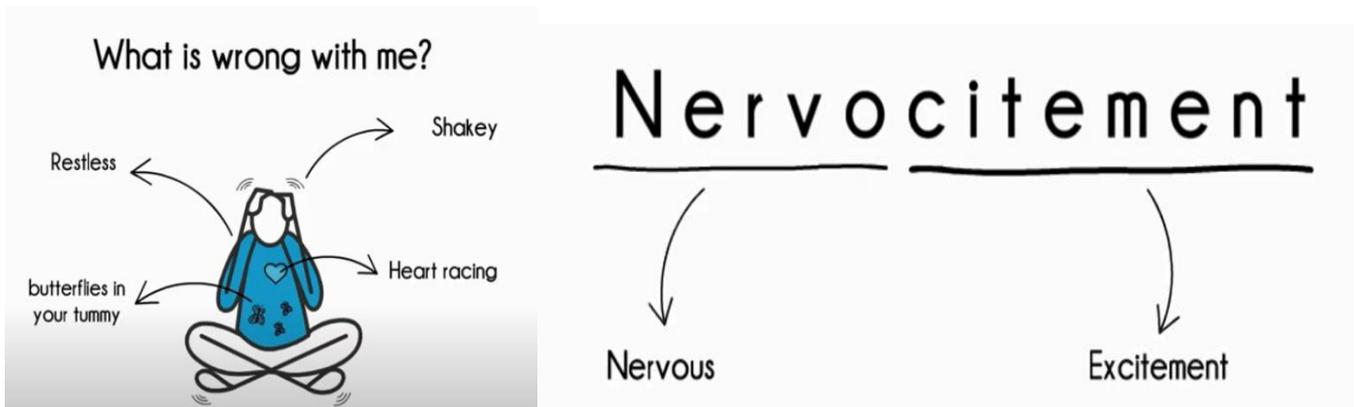
**Primary 1, Primary 2  
and Primary 3  
Education Restart  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

## INFORMATION FOR PUPILS STARTING SCHOOL

**Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 Children will return to school for Face to Face Teaching on Monday 8th March 2021 at their usual starting times**

- **Primary 2 pupils will start at 8.45am and Primary 2 pupils will stop at 1.50pm**
- **Primary 3 pupils will start at 8.55am and Primary 3 Pupils will stop at 1.50pm**
- **Primary 1 pupils will start at 9.00am and Primary 1 pupils will stop at 2.00pm**
- **Primary 1 and Primary 2 Pupils will enter and exit at Mrs Shannon's office. They will use the main entrance and exit gate from the Cregagh Road at the Front of School**
- **Primary 3 Pupils will enter and exit at the P3/P4 Playground Door. They will use the entrance and exit side gate at Dromore Street**

I would like to recommend the following website for all Primary 1 to Primary 3 Parent/Guardians: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUnul7np4mQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUnul7np4mQ). The video mentions Nervocitement – a Mixture of Nervousness and Excitement and may possibly reflect how a significant number of School Pupils, Parents and Staff may currently feel about starting school again for the first time in the 2021 Year.



As our P1 – P3 pupils return after almost three months away from the physical school environment, Harding Memorial Primary School acknowledges the importance of supporting their emotional health and wellbeing, helping them to be engaged and motivated to learn and ensuring they have the tools and skills they require for learning.

Our focus for our P1 – P3 pupils as they return will be upon ensuring that they are ready to learn. 18. Educational research evidence indicates that missed knowledge content in itself is not likely to be a long-term problem for pupils, as long as they are given supportive tools to facilitate learning. Language is important in Education and frequent references to “missed work” or “lost time” or “catch up” will potentially increase pupil anxiety. Therefore, the key message that will be promoted in Harding Memorial Primary School is that we will aim to support pupils to be motivated to learn through a curriculum that gives equal emphasis to knowledge, understanding and skills rather than catching up missed knowledge content

Initially, for our youngest pupils it is likely that school activities will often focus on getting the children once again used to school routines and safe behaviours, interacting appropriately with others within the rules and building the ability to engage with activities and sustain concentration. Each Class Teachers will take the appropriate amount of time to re-establish routines, introduce new routines and set the expectations of behaviour necessary to support all pupils as they return to school. One of most significant consequences of remote learning for children has been the lack of social development that comes with being part of the school community. We fully acknowledge that “Positive Relationships” are vital for child development. A number of our children may have experienced a variety of loss during the lockdown pandemic, including the loss of relationships with their peers. Many relationships that were thriving, may need to be invested in and restored. In Harding Memorial Primary School we know the importance of providing planned opportunities for all our children to re-establish face-to-face friendships, reconnect with staff, work with others and talk about their interests and experiences.



**If any P1 – P3 Parent has any questions or queries about the return of their child/children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, please feel free to contact your child’s class Teacher via Seesaw**

**We can confirm that Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 Classes will be continuing to do PE on their Timetabled Days. Accordingly Children are able to come to school wearing their PE Kit on the days that they will be doing PE in School. Reminder information about this topic will be sent out to P1 – P3 Parents via Seesaw this week.**



Government guidelines are very clear – Parents and Visitors must not enter the school building as far as possible and it is important that all Adults keep 2 metres apart from each other in the vicinity of the School Playgrounds and do not congregate on or outside School Grounds. Please make your way into the school grounds and leave as quickly as possible.

- **The Harding Memorial Primary School building is closed to all visitors except our Children, Staff and Essential Visiting Workers.**
- **All School Parent/Guardians will be actively discouraged from entering our School Building as a means of preventing spread of the virus.**
- **Instead we encourage communication by either telephoning the school 90458040 or by emailing [info@hardingmemorial.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@hardingmemorial.belfast.ni.sch.uk)**

It is vitally important that parents keep their children home from school when they are experiencing any symptom of the Coronavirus ie a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste and smell. Children who are ill at all, should not be sent to school and they will be isolated and sent home immediately if they are found to be ill or become ill during the school day to give our staff and parents confidence that our school is a safe and healthy place to learn and work, especially during current restrictions. We may appear “fussier about this than normal”, especially for working parents, but we ask for your patience and understanding in advance.

Our children and staff are encouraged to wash their hands for the recommended twenty seconds (easy way to measure: sing *Happy Birthday* twice), before leaving home, on entry into class, and at regular intervals throughout the day (including, but not limited to, eating/drinking, using the toilet). Paper towels will be provided in classes and our toilets have hand driers to ensure adequate drying of hands to prevent infection. Parents should encourage our children to use them. Handwashing posters will be displayed around the school to act as a visual reminder to our children. Hand sanitiser will be available at all main entrance doors and hand wash will be available in all classrooms and everyone is encouraged to use it as they pass. Depending on the age of our children parents can send our children in with their own hand sanitiser if they wish. Please ensure that this sanitiser is appropriate for any sensitivities your child may have. Disposable tissues are available in each room for both staff and children to use although please send your child in with their own packet of tissues. Children and staff should sneeze/cough into tissues (never into hands), adhering to the ‘*Catch it, bin it, kill it*’ guidance. Used tissues should be put into the bin immediately after use and children should wash their hands afterwards. Children will be reminded not to touch their face (eyes, mouth, nose) with hands that are not clean. Please remind your child(ren) of this at home in order to assist with Staff reinforcement of this message within the School Environment.

PPE is available in school for staff to use when administering first aid or dealing with an unwell child. Our children are not required to wear PPE to school or when in school. School will remain well stocked with liquid anti-bacterial soap, sanitising wipes, anti-bacterial spray, paper towels, toilet roll, tissues, and other PPE equipment. Staff and children may wear face coverings during school if they wish. This is down to individual Parent/Guardians and Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff preference, however, as mentioned, it is not required. Parent/Guardians should be aware that, if your child(ren) wear face coverings, staff will not monitor this. It is up to Parent/Guardians to talk to children at home about their expectation of children wearing face coverings.

### **A Summary of Procedures That Will Be Followed If a Child Displays Symptoms of Covid-19 in Harding Memorial Primary School**

- Harding Memorial Primary School will contact the Parent/Guardian using the Contact Information Provided to the School at the start of the 2020/2021 School Year. Please ensure that your supplied contact Phone Number has the facility to take Answer Machine messages in case that the School Makes Emergency Contact
- An Adult will supervise the child who will be isolated from others and taken to a well-ventilated area. This will be the School Isolation Room (Room 13 Classroom)
- Any staff member staying with the child will continue to look after them safely until their parent comes to collect them.
- If you are asked to collect your child due to symptoms of COVID 19 developing you will be required to collect them from the Main School Office entrance.
- **Primary School Aged Children should go for a test ASAP. Tests can be booked online at: <https://covid-19.hscni.net/testing>**

### **Additional Information From the Public Health Agency is available to view below as a series of Frequently Asked Questions.**

#### **✓ A child or staff member has developed COVID-19 symptoms while at school. What should the school do ?**

Anyone with symptoms of fever, new continuous cough or loss of, or change to, normal sense of smell or taste should go home immediately and arrange a COVID-19 test. This can be done by phoning 119 or via the web portal <https://COVID-19.hscni.net/testing/>. If a child becomes unwell in school, the child should be moved to a separate room with appropriate supervision and good ventilation. Siblings at the school should also go home until the test result is available.

#### **✓ A child or staff member from the school has had a COVID-19 test. What does the school need to do ?**

Only individuals that have symptoms (fever, new continuous cough or loss of, or change to, normal sense of smell or taste) should have a COVID-19 test. They should remain off school pending the result. No further action is needed by the school until the result is back. If the result is negative, nothing needs to be done by the school.

- The individual can re-attend school if they have had no fever for 48 hours and have not been identified as a close contact of any case and instructed to self-isolate for 10 days or advised to self-isolate by the Stop COVID NI app.
- Their household members can attend school if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and have not been identified as a close contact of any case and instructed to self-isolate for 10 days or advised to self-isolate by the Stop COVID NI app.

✓ **A child or staff member from the school has had a positive test. What does the school need to do ?**

The person is now a confirmed case and the PHA School Information Pack guidance should be consulted and followed.

- PHA Contact Tracing Service (Test, Trace, Protect) will contact the individual and advise them that they need to isolate for at least 10 days.
- PHA Contact Tracing Service will gather information on household and non-school community close contacts and advise them that they need to self-isolate for 10 days.
- PHA COVID-19 School Team will gather information from the school principal on school (pupils and staff) close contacts.

✓ **A child or staff member has tested positive. What should the school tell parents ?**

Schools have no obligation to inform parents of a positive case in the school. However, in the interests of open communication, schools may wish to inform parents when there is a case, being careful to maintain confidentiality and not give information that may identify the individual concerned. Parents can be reassured that people who are not identified as close contacts are at no more risk than the general public. Everyone should be following the public health guidance to wash your hands, keep your distance and stay at home if you have a fever, new continuous cough or loss of, or change to, normal sense of smell or taste.

✓ **A positive case has been identified in a class. How should the classroom be cleaned afterwards?**

Enhanced cleaning should be carried out in areas where a confirmed case has been present. Staff and children can return after cleaning has been completed. Public areas where a confirmed case has passed through and spent minimal time in (such as corridors), but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids, can be cleaned as normal. The enhanced clean will be managed by the EA Cleaning Service.

✓ **Someone who lives with a child or staff member has had a test. Can the child/staff member come to school ?**

If the household member has had a test because they have symptoms (fever, new continuous cough or loss of, or change to, normal sense of smell or taste) then the child or staff member must not come to school as they will be self-isolating pending the test result. If the test was done as part of a worker testing programme (eg care home workers) and the person tested does not have symptoms of COVID-19, their household contacts can continue normal activities unless the result is positive.

✓ **Someone who lives with a child or staff member has tested positive. Can the child/staff member come to school ?**

❖ No.

- ❖ All household contacts of a confirmed case should isolate for 10 days from the date of the case's symptom onset, or positive test date if the case did not have symptoms. The PHA Contact Tracing Service (Test, Trace, Protect) will be in touch to advise them of this.
- ❖ Individuals advised to self-isolate by the Stop COVID NI app should also not attend school. Individuals should only get a test if they become symptomatic during the 10 day isolation period. If they test negative they still need to isolate for 10 days.
- ❖ If they test positive, they need to isolate for a further 10 days from when their symptoms started.

✓ **Someone who lives with a child or staff member has tested negative. Can the child/staff member come to school ?**

Yes, unless the member of staff or pupil has been advised to isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service or the Stop COVID NI app. They should not come to school if they develop any symptoms and should arrange a test as outlined above.

✓ **A child or staff member has had contact with a confirmed case. Can they come to school ?**

- ❖ If they live in the same house as the case - no. Household contacts of confirmed cases should isolate for 10 days from the onset of the case's symptoms, or the positive test date if the case did not have symptoms. If they do not live in the same house as the confirmed case but have been identified as a close contact by the PHA contact tracing service – No. Individuals that have been identified as a 'close contact' of confirmed cases should isolate for 10 days.
- If they do not live in the same house as the case and have not been identified as a close contact by the PHA contact tracing service – Yes. They can attend unless advised otherwise by the PHA contact tracing service.

✓ **What is a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 ?**

Definitions of Close Contacts

In the context of a case in a school, a close contact is anyone who has been close to a confirmed case of COVID-19 from 2 days before the person was symptomatic\* to 10 days after the onset of symptoms (ie the infectious period) and fulfils any of the following:

- lives in the same household
- has been within one metre and had face-to-face contact (including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation) or skin-to-skin contact
- been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (**either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day**)
- has travelled in a small vehicle with the case
- travelled in a large vehicle / plane near the case

✓ **A child or staff member has had close contact with someone with symptoms of COVID-19. Can they come to school ?**

❖ No

❖ If they live in the same house as the person with symptoms. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, new continuous cough or loss of, or change to, normal sense of smell or taste. All individuals with symptoms should get tested. Household contacts of anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate while awaiting the result of the test.

➤ Yes - if they do not live with the person. However, a degree of pragmatism may be required for a child or staff member who has had prolonged, close contact with a symptomatic individual. In such circumstances, it may be sensible for the individual to remain off pending the symptomatic individual's test result. If they develop symptoms themselves they should stay at home and arrange a COVID-19 test.

✓ **A parent or sibling of a child at school has had close contact with a confirmed case. Can the child still come to school ?**

Yes. Only people that have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case by the PHA contact tracing service need to isolate for 10 days. If a child has not had close contact with the case themselves they can carry on all normal activities even if their parent/sibling is isolating.

✓ **A member of staff or pupil has been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case and advised to self-isolate for 10 days by the PHA Contact Tracing Service. Can other pupils or staff in the class still come to school ?**

Yes. Only people that have been identified as a close contact by the PHA contact tracing service need to isolate for 10 days. As other people in class/school have not had direct close contact with a case they can carry on all normal activities.

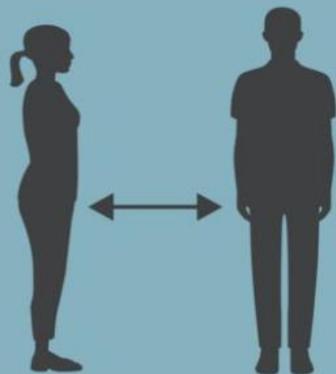
## Coronavirus: What you need to do



**Wash your hands**



**Wear a face covering**



**Keep your distance**