

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



Principal: S Cumper
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Monday 9th October 2023

Dear Primary 1 to Primary 7 Parent/Guardian

Coffee Morning Thank You

On Friday 29th September 2023 Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School participated in a Red Theme Day and Coffee Morning in aid of support of Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI who are the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to blood cancer research. Their mission is to improve survival rates and quality of life for all blood cancer patients by supporting clinicians, scientists and students researching these diseases. I would like to congratulate all the pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 for their excellent participation in our "Red Theme Day" and thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the charity collection. This event attracted a very sizable number of friends of our school and turned out to be a delightful event. We raised the fantastic amount of £600 for this very worthwhile cancer charity so thank you all for your generosity. I would like to pass on a huge thank you to all those people who sent contributions of cakes and buns and to those who helped with distribution of refreshments. Special mention must go to those PTFA members who gave of their time to assist with serving refreshments – their support was invaluable and we really couldn't have managed without them.

Annual Flu Vaccination

As you may know, every year in the autumn, all children are offered the Annual Flu Vaccination, administered by the school health team via a nasal spray. Given the times that we are in with the reemergence of Covid19, the Department of Health is encouraging as large an uptake of the vaccination as possible. Please find **copied below** a statement from Professor Sir Michael McBride Chief Medical Officer about "Preparing For The 2023/2024 Influenza Season".

I am writing to again ask for your help in assisting the delivery of the annual influenza vaccine for children via a school based programme. Please pass on my thanks and gratitude to all the staff involved in schools for accommodating the visits by school nursing teams to deliver the seasonal flu vaccination programme last year. Despite the challenges faced with the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, 70.6% of primary school children were vaccinated (72.7% in 2022/23) while vaccination uptake in secondary schools was 60.2% (63.8% in 2022/23). I wanted to re-emphasize the importance of the school based annual flu vaccination programme in helping to reduce the risk of concomitant circulation of influenza and Covid-19 during autumn and winter. The Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI), an independent expert advisory body, advises that the childhood flu vaccination programme is the best way to reduce influenza transmission and provide protection to the wider population. I can confirm that in addition to primary school children, all pupils in school years 8 to 12 will again to be eligible for an influenza vaccination this year. Therefore, school health teams will again seek parental/guardian approval to vaccinate all children (including those in a clinical risk group) attending primary school, special school and years 8-12 of secondary school during the 2023/24 academic year i.e., those born between 2 July 2007 to 1 July 2019.

The School Health Team will be visiting Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School on Wednesday 25th October 2023 for the School Influenza Vaccine Programme. The programme has been introduced to give protection to children against flu, which can be a very unpleasant illness and can mean that they have to take time off school. It will also help to stop the spread of flu and so will protect people around them as well.

Parents and School in Partnership

- ❖ Please make sure that all pupil equipment and clothing is clearly labelled. We would encourage parents to recheck their child's school uniform and if necessary re-mark any unidentified items. If anything is misplaced by your child at school, please make sure your child has told their Class Teacher or the School Building Supervisor, Mrs Lyttle, and we will then attempt to resolve the situation.
- ❖ We would request that all Parent/Guardians ensure that the contact details that parents provide as part of the school annual data collection are accurate. All contact information has been processed to date. **Any changes to addresses, email addresses or emergency contact numbers must be supplied via email to the school office.** Failure to do so can cause significant problems in an emergency situation. In particular, we would urgently request that all parents **should ensure that all their mobile contact phone numbers are accurate and also that your mobile phone has an answer machine message facility in order for school to make contact.**
- ❖ **We will send a test text message to all Priority 1 mobile numbers on Thursday 12th October to make sure that everyone is able to receive these urgent messages. If you have parental responsibility and are the first point of contact and DO NOT receive a text on that day please email the school office on info@hardingmemorial.belfast.ni.sch.uk with your updated telephone number. ONLY one parent is set as Priority 1**
- ❖ We would request that all pupils from P1 to P7 have access to a suitable outdoor coat (with hood) in school, especially if they have travelled to school by car. **We would prefer pupils not to use umbrellas in the school playground due to the possibility of a child being accidentally hurt by a child losing control of their umbrella.** It may be particularly useful for older pupils to leave an "emergency coat" in school.
- ❖ At Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School we acknowledge that the whole area of "*Child Protection*" is a sensitive and difficult issue. The relationships which School Staff have with children and parents are often based on trust and confidentiality. Such relationships are acknowledged as underpinning the secure, caring environment for growth and learning which schools seek to provide for their pupils. However, all individuals connected to our School must recognise that, in order to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation, a proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families. As part of the Home/School partnership all Stakeholders are reminded that it is accepted School Policy that any Harding Memorial Pupil (whilst they are in the vicinity of the school grounds) **should not be approached by any adult other than their own Parent/Guardian or a member of Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School Staff.** If you have any questions about any aspect of School Safeguarding/Child Protection please speak to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mr Cumper) or Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs Baird)

How Do I Make Contact With School ?

- If a Parent/Guardian has a concern regarding their child this should be brought to the Class Teacher first. For the smooth operation of the school if a Parent/Guardian requires an extended conversation about an incident/event, an appointment should be made with the class teacher either through the school secretary or by letter. The issues should be clarified to enable the Class Teacher to make appropriate preparation.
- If the issue is not resolved a meeting with the Principal may be arranged. If it is necessary to discuss something with a Teacher, then a note should be written or a phone call made to arrange a mutually convenient time. Class Teachers may be available at the beginning and end of the school day to speak briefly to parents – but please note that every Teacher has Curriculum commitments both before and at the end of the normal school day.

School Security

We are very keen to promote a Healthy Lifestyle amongst our pupils and encourage children walking cycling or scooting to School. However, we would strongly encourage all Parent/Guardians to ensure that their child's bicycle or scooter is locked in place during the school day. Whilst School will prioritise the safety and security of our pupils within the school building, we are aware that there are certain vulnerabilities with items left outside of school e.g. bicycles and scooters. In addition, we strongly recommend that all children wear cycle helmets.

Positive Behaviour Scheme - Harding Hero for Friendship

The "Harding Hero" Scheme is used to reinforce and promote Positive Behaviour amongst all the pupils at our school. The aim of this scheme is to create an atmosphere in which the pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of self-esteem and an awareness of the needs of others. At the end of each behaviour theme period a pupil from Primary 1 to Primary 7 will receive a behaviour certificate which will be displayed on the Harding Hero Noticeboard. The theme for the current Harding Hero Scheme is **Friendship** which we can be demonstrated by ***listening to each other, by taking turns, by trusting each other and by sorting out conflicts sensibly.*** We hope that all parents will assist us in the project by reinforcing the importance of children demonstrating **Friendship** both inside and outside out of school.



We are pleased to inform you that our School has been selected (subject to voting) for the Tesco Community Grant. Customers can vote via in store tokens within Tesco Castlereagh Road branch. There is no limit on how many times someone can vote and Voting closes in January 2024.

the project that means the most to you.
project could receive up to £1,500.

We need your VOTES !!!!!

Harding Memorial Integrated PTFA
P3/P4 Playground Upgrade
Help us make the perfect, all-weather playground at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary that meets all our pupils' individual needs because everyone is important at our school!
Belfast

Vote in-store until 14th January 2024

TESCO Community Grants

ply now for

All schools are encouraged to advocate a consistent message about healthy eating, as per the Food in Schools Policy - <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/food-schools-policy> . This means all food and drink provided and consumed within the education setting should be nutritious and of good quality. School meals are a great choice, however if parents decide to provide a packed lunch, or morning break or snack, the following guidance may be useful for healthy eating tips and ideas

Scan the QR code for **FREE nutrition videos***



*Made by
Registered
Dietitians and
Nutritionists for
Parents and
Teachers.



Or search
Public
Health
Dietitians on
YouTube.



- **Feeding Under 5s**
- **Fussy Eating**
- **Lunch & snack ideas**
- **Healthy Eating during the primary school years**
- **Nutrition for Teenagers**





YOU ARE WELCOME !
Wednesday 18th October
from 8.30am – 9.00am

Parents/ Carers! Well done for making it through these first few weeks back! We think you deserve a cup of coffee on us. So, on Wednesday 18th October, East Belfast Alternatives (a local charity) will be visiting Harding Memorial Integrated Primary from 8.30am to 9am with coffee, tea and biscuits served in a locally designed keep cup which will be yours to hold on to! Our team will be handing out hot drinks, along with some helpful child friendly mental well being leaflets. We will be available to have a chat with and we would love to hear your views on what other forms of support would be helpful for Parent/Guardians of children within your school! Hope to see you there!

Thanks,
Rosy McLean

Restorative Practitioner
East Belfast Alternatives
Isthmus House
Isthmus Street
Belfast
BT6 9DL
02890 456766



HARDING MEMORIAL INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Holiday List For The Academic Year = 2023/2024

Please note that Family holidays cannot be deemed to be an agreed, authorised absence except in very exceptional circumstances: (DE Circular 2006/14) A family holiday is judged to be important to the wellbeing and cohesion of the family, following serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic events."

✓ **Half Term Holiday**

School is closed from Monday 30th October 2023 – Friday 3rd November 2023

Last Day of Term 1 – Thursday 21st December at 12.15pm

✓ **Christmas Holiday**

School is closed from Friday 22nd December 2023 – Tuesday 2nd January 2024

❖ **School Development Day - Wednesday 3rd January 2024**

School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this [date](#)

✓ **Spring Term**

School starts on Thursday 4th January 2024

❖ **School Development Day - Wednesday 14th February 2024**

School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this [date](#)

✓ **Spring Half Term Holiday**

School is closed on Thursday 15th February 2024 and Friday 16th February 2024

✓ **St Patrick's Day**

School is closed on Monday 18th March 2024

Last Day of Term 2 – Friday 22nd March 2024 at 12.15pm

❖ **School Development Day – Monday 25th March 2024**

School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this [date](#)

✓ **Easter Holiday**

School is closed from Monday [23th March 2024](#) – Friday 5th April 2024

✓ **Summer Term**

Summer term starts on Monday 8th April 2024

✓ **May Day Holiday**

School is closed on Monday 6th May 2024

✓ **Summer Half Term Holiday**

School is closed on Monday 27th May 2024

❖ **School Development Day – Monday 3rd June 2024**

School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this [date](#)

❖ **School Development Day – Monday 17th June 2024**

School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this [date](#)

End of Summer Term – The last day of the Summer Term will be Friday 28th June 2024