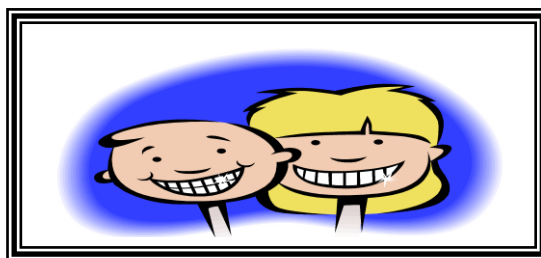


# Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



Principal: S Cumper  
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Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear P1 – P7 Parent/Guardian

## Reports Sent Home on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024

End of Year School Reports will be sent home with Primary 1 – Primary 7 children on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024. If circumstances have changed and you require two copies of the report to be prepared, please make sure that you let the school office know via e mail to [scumper654@c2kni.net](mailto:scumper654@c2kni.net) before Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024. If you choose to discuss the report with your child, please emphasise the positive points and praise the effort made by each individual child. We would also like to remind all Parent/Guardians about the importance of the percentage attendance of your child that will be indicated at the front of the school report. **Additional information from the Department of Education regarding school attendance is copied below.** We hope that the parent/guardian of any child who has attendance below 95% (95% attendance is regarded as satisfactory) will address this issue during the incoming 2023/2024 School Academic Year.



## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.



## **Education Authority Information Update about Free School Meals and Uniform/Physical Education Allowances for School Year 2024/25**

Please find copied below an update on the upcoming 2024/25 application process for Free School Meals and School Uniform/Physical Education Clothing Allowances.

➤ **The online application process via EA Connect is now open.**

All parents/carers are encouraged to apply on EA Connect before 26 July to ensure arrangements are in place for the new school year beginning in September 2024.

<https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent/>

### **Special Diet Arrangements**

In previous years, parents/carers whose child had a Statement of Special Educational Needs (Stage 3) and required a special diet and who did not qualify for Free School Meals under the standard financial eligibility criteria, were required to apply for Free School Meals via a paper application form. The EA Free School Meals service also required medical evidence from a medical professional that a special diet was required. The EA has listened to the feedback received from parents/carers, medical professionals and schools in relation to the difficulties around this process and for the 2024/25 school year, parents/carers can now apply for support online via the EA Connect portal where they will be directed to the relevant online application for Free School Meals under the Special Diet criterion. This applies to both new and existing claimants. Evidence of a medically required special diet provided by a medical professional is no longer required, however, parents/carers are required to make a declaration to confirm under which medical requirement a special diet is required.

### **Free School Meals / Uniform Allowance Helpdesk**

The Free Schools Meals and Uniform Allowance Helpdesk is available to assist parents and guardians who may have any queries. The Helpdesk operates Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm and can be contacted via email: [mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk](mailto:mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk). Further information including eligibility criteria for the 2024/25 school year and a list of Frequently Asked Questions to assist with any parental queries can be accessed by visiting the **EA Website Link** below:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>