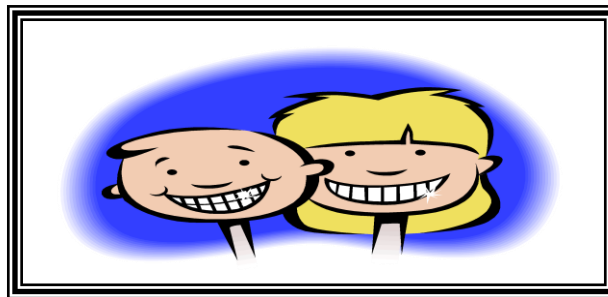


Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



Principal: S Cumper
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Tuesday 25th June 2024

Dear P1 – P7 Parent/Guardian

We are quickly approaching the end of another very busy school year. The children have worked very hard and are deservedly looking forward to the summer break. On behalf of all Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School Staff I would like to express appreciation for all you do as Parent/Guardians to assist us in the education of your children. The vital working partnership between Home and School ensures that the children are settled and happy in their learning. Nevertheless, I fully acknowledge this has been another challenging year for Parent/Guardians as there has been Industrial Action involving both Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff during the current academic year. As you are aware Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School was closed to all Pupils on Thursday 18th January 2024 as part of the strike action by the various Teaching and Non-Teaching Unions in Northern Ireland. I would like to again apologise for the inconvenience that this decision to close our school would have caused. **However I would again state that basic school funding is inadequate**, and this has a direct impact on provision in all schools. We rightly expect that our schools are adequately funded to provide the highest possible standard of educational experiences for our children and that our system ensures that the needs of our most vulnerable children, particularly our children with additional needs, are appropriately met. **This is simply not possible with the current level of funding in the sector.** The Strike Action in our schools in recent years has been unprecedented and has come to fruition as the direct result of the failure to take into account the very real concerns expressed by school stakeholders about the future of our education system. We thank you again for your continued support for our school as we work together to do the best for the children in our care. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone associated with Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School for their help and support over the past year in so many different ways. Thank you to our Teaching and Non – Teaching Staff who continue to work so incredibly hard for all our children. To all those individuals who are leaving – Children, Staff and indeed Parent/Guardians who have also had a long association with our school, thank you and best wishes for the future. We hope our P7's have enjoyed their time at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School and take away happy memories of their learning experiences. We wish them every success in the future.

However, it is not just our P7's who will be leaving Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School at the end of the School Year. Mrs Kelly has applied for a leave of absence for the incoming 2024/2025 School Year and consequently Miss Boyd will be the P6 Class Teacher for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for the incoming 2024/2025 School Year. In addition I have been teaching for approximately 35 years and have now decided that it is time for me to take a Temporary Variation of Contract for the incoming school year. Accordingly I will be working a Three Day Week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) in 2024/2025. During my time away from school on a Thursday and Friday, Mrs Baird will be the Co-Principal of Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School. The organisational pattern for P2 Pupils in 2024/2025 will be that Mrs Baird will teach Primary 2 on a Monday and Tuesday and Miss Hall will be teaching them on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The job share teacher arrangement has been a well-established working pattern in our school for a considerable number of years and I have every confidence that Mrs Baird and myself will continue this successful working pattern in 2024/2025 as Co-Principals of Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School. We will also be saying goodbye at the end of June to several members of School Non-Teaching Staff including Miss Meighan, Mrs Mackey, Mr Kumar and Mrs Shannon. As School Principal I would like to thank all those school staff who are leaving us at the end of 2023/2024 for their hard work, commitment and dedication and wish them all continued success for the future.

I am immensely proud to lead Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School and equally proud of the pupils and staff who make up the Harding Memorial family. It gets harder every year (or maybe it's because I'm getting older!), particularly as we work against the tide of falling financial support and direct services to school. So, it's almost time to recharge the batteries and get ready for a new wee group of Harding Memorial pupils coming into P1 for September. In the meantime there is a summer to enjoy with family and friends and I wish everyone a lovely and enjoyable summer.

- ❖ **The last day of the current 2023/2024 School Year will be Friday 28th June 2024 and there will be no school dinners available on this date**
- **School will close at 12.10pm for all P1, P3 and P5 pupils**
- **School will close at 12.15pm for all P2, P4, P6 and P7 pupils**
- **No School Uniform on Friday 28th June 2024**

P1 – P7 Teaching Staff Organisation for September 2024

Class	Teacher
Primary 1	Mrs McMullan
Primary 2	Mrs Baird = Monday and Tuesday Miss N Hall = Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Primary 3	Mrs McCormick = Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Mrs Casserly = Thursday and Friday
Primary 4	Mr Heatley
Primary 5	Miss E Hall
Primary 6	Miss Boyd = Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Miss Monaghan = Thursday and Friday
Primary 7	Miss Cullen
SC1	Mrs Greer
GLSC	Mrs Morrow
Principal	Mr Cumper = Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Principal	Mrs Baird = Thursday and Friday

Yours sincerely
Mr Stephen Cumper
Principal

Information For Parent/Guardians

It is with great sadness that Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School needs to inform School Parent/Guardians about the recent passing of Mrs Suzie Donald. Suzie had worked as a Classroom Assistant in Harding Memorial for a number of years. We would wish to pass on the sympathies of School Staff, Governors, Parents and Pupils to both her family and friends. Teachers have taken time today to explain the situation, acknowledge students' feelings and address their concerns in an open and honest manner. The death of a member of our school community will affect us in a variety of ways. It is important to remember that there a number of possible reactions to a death that may vary from upset, passivity or withdrawal to no response at all and that they are all normal expressions of grief. None of these reactions is more normal than others and it will be helpful to let your son or daughter know this. It is also important to be aware that these behaviours might not show themselves right away and may actually be in reaction to past losses in your family that this event has brought to the surface. I encourage you to speak openly with your son or daughter regarding his or her reactions and feelings regarding this sad news. Again, we are very saddened by this loss to our school community. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Donald family and their friends.