

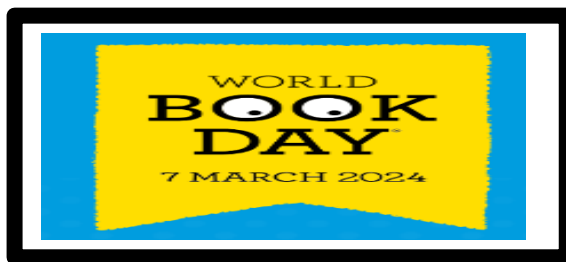
Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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

Wednesday 21st February 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian



105 Cregagh Road
Belfast BT6 8PZ
Telephone: 028 90458040
Fax: 028 90460917

Harding Memorial will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

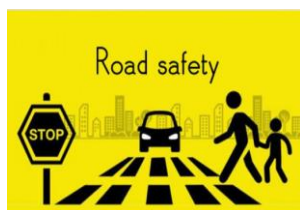
World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. World Book Day is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. The first World Book Day in the UK and Ireland took place in 1997 and its aim was to encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading. **In Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School we continually aim to promote reading for pleasure.** As in previous years your child will receive a token to discount £1 off a book purchase. Every year, special World Book Day £1 Books are produced and made available to participating Bookshops. **In order to help celebrate World Book Day every child from P1 – P7 is encouraged to come to school on Thursday 7th March 2024 dressed as a character from one of their favourite books.** We hope that every child will participate in this Non – Uniform Day and children could come as Harry Potter, Horrid Henry or Elmer, to name but a few. **Participation in the celebration of World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024 is purely voluntary.** However, our school community has always been very enthusiastic in celebrating World Book Day each year and we look forward to having lots of fun with the children this year as well as building their enthusiasm for books well beyond their celebration on World Book Day.

Primary 1 – Primary 6 Parent/Teacher Interview Week

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School always seeks to inform and involve parents as much as possible in the education of their children. In line with this objective a second set of P1 – P6 Parent/Teacher interviews will take place in the week commencing Monday 11th March 2024.

- All Primary 1 – Primary 7 pupils will finish school early from Monday 11th March to Friday 15th March 2024 in order to facilitate Parent Teacher Interview meetings.
- All P1 – P7 pupils will finish school at 1.00pm during that week.

Please ensure any child requiring adult supervision after school is collected promptly at this time. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter. Further details about individual Parent/Teacher Interview times will be distributed to each Parent/Guardian via their child/children in due course. We hope that all Parents/Guardians will be able to participate in these important interviews which are intended to be a two-way exchange of information and guidance between Home and School so that together we can more effectively support your child's learning.



We would like to remind all School Stakeholders that the information within the Highway Code – Section Road Users requiring extra care" (204 to 225) states: *Near Schools - Drive slowly and be particularly aware of young cyclists and pedestrians. In some places, there may be flashing amber signal below the 'School' warning sign which tells you that there may be children crossing the road ahead. Drive very slowly until you are clear of the area.*

Also all motorists should be aware of section 210, which states; **"You MUST stop when a School Patrol shows a 'Stop For Children' sign."**

Pupil Attendance and Lateness

It is very important that each child arrives in school on time. When pupils arrive late it can make things difficult for everyone. The teacher has to stop and wait for the latecomer to settle down and the rest of the class is disrupted. The latecomer who misses the first part of the day often feels uncomfortable and embarrassed. Perhaps even more importantly, they miss the opportunity to play and socialise with their friends in the playground prior to the commencement of school. We understand that all families will occasionally face situations which make it difficult for their children to arrive on time (eg sleeping in or getting caught in traffic due to unfavourable weather conditions). This is not a problem and in such situations we would certainly prefer that your child arrives late, rather than being kept off school for the entire day. **Any pupils arriving after 9.05am should access the Front School Entrance where they will be able to gain access to school.**

School has been monitoring individual pupil attendance for all our Primary 1 to Primary 7 Pupils and the **Principal will be making telephone contact with all those Parent/Guardians who have child/children who have had attendance below 85%** for the period since the start of the 2023/2024 School Year to February 2024 Half Term. **We have copied below Department of Education Information about School Percentage Attendance below: Every School Day Counts**



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.