

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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Friday 1st March 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Primary 7 Musical Performance at the Peace Proms

Our P7 pupils were given the fantastic opportunity to participate in the Peace Proms at the SSE Odyssey Arena in Belfast on Sunday 25th February 2024. The Peace Proms was a superb celebration of youth, music, energy and sheer talent on an epic scale. Our pupils performed alongside the critically acclaimed Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland and the Belfast Children's Peace Choir which was made up of 3,500 Primary School children from all over Northern Ireland. This was another wonderful opportunity for our pupils and I would like to formally express my gratitude to Miss Cullen and Mrs Fisher for their excellent organisation of this event. The children's behaviour was first class and they were a credit to both their parents and Harding Memorial Integrated P.S.

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.

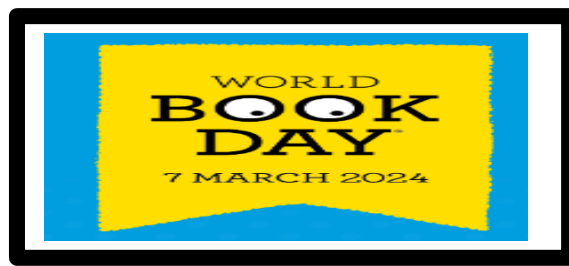
Please ensure any child requiring adult supervision after school is collected promptly at this time. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter. Additional School Cloud Log On information about individual Primary 1 – Primary 6 Parent/Teacher Interview times was distributed to each Parent/Guardian via their child/children on Monday 26th February 2024. **However if any Primary 1 – Primary 6 Parent/Guardian has any questions or queries about this process, please contact the School Office at your earliest possible convenience.** We hope that all Primary 1 – Primary 6 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.

Monday 18th March 2024 – School Closure

Parent/Guardians are reminded that School will be closed for all pupils due to Saint Patrick's Day

Healthy Break

We will be continuing the school policy of promoting a healthy break for pupils during the school day. We accept that having a healthy break will not in itself transform a child's lifestyle or health but we do believe it has potential to be habit forming, realistic and achievable. Obviously, children will still eat whatever you as parents decide at all other times but by raising awareness of healthy eating and by practising it in school we would hope that there may be long term benefits for our children. Please remember that Harding Memorial is a **'Nut-Free'** zone. **This means we must ask that all children in the school should refrain from bringing any food that contains nuts into school.** We appreciate that this may cause some Parent/Guardian inconvenience but School is confident that we will be able to count on your support with this very important issue.



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.



As many of you may be aware, the incidences of dog fouling on the pavement outside the main entrance to our School continues to cause some concern. This appears to be a particular issue in the morning before 7.45am when there are School Staff on duty and the location of the dog foul seems to be consistently the same - **at the front pavement location where the children use the school Road Crossing patrol. This situation is obviously totally unacceptable and intolerable as the continual selfish actions of a Pet Owner are endangering the health and welfare of our School Community.** We have been in contact with the appropriate agencies and would like to share additional information with School Stakeholders. Belfast City Council will soon commence a pilot to provide specific dog waste bins in each of the four quadrants of the city, in a hope that these bins along key routes will help to send a message and challenge the mindset of dog walkers who do not clean up after their dog. This pilot will rely heavily on data to strategically place bins in areas where dog fouling is persistent.

➤ **As such I would request your support with this pilot in specifying areas around school that are problematic.**

This can be done anonymously: <https://online.belfastcity.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling/default.aspx> or by telephone at 02890270431 or by emailing dogwardens@belfastcity.gov.uk

➤ **We would like to thank all Parent/Guardians for their continued co-operation and support with this very irritating issue.**

**COMMUNITY
TOGETHER
DOES ART!**

ART AND CRAFT BAZAAR

Featuring art and crafts by our migrant, refugee and asylum seeker neighbours. Have a go at making something. Children welcome.

**SAT 23RD MARCH
10AM -2PM**

- ✓ Free workshops
- ✓ Refreshments

**MALONE RUGBY CLUB
GIBSON PARK AVENUE**

@communitytogetherbelfast



Dear Harding Memorial Integrated Parents and Guardians,

In June 2023 P4 – P7 students from Harding Memorial Integrated and Euston Primary were invited to take part in a series of street art workshops facilitated by myself and my colleague Ruth Bothwell. The purpose of these workshops was to engage with pupils in the community, to explore themes and ideas that would help to inform a wider community street art project on the Cregagh and Woodstock Road. This project has been made possible with funding from Belfast City Council which was awarded to a small group of local businesses on the road.

You may have noticed the first artwork “Up The Cregagh” has already been completed by the very talented artist Zippy (www.artistzippy.com) and we hope you love it! Another 4 artworks will be appearing up and down the Cregagh and Woodstock Road throughout March and we are excited to announce that one of them is due to be installed on the exterior wall of the Harding Dinner Hall. This vibrant and whimsical artwork has been painted by artist Ali Parks (www.alip-art.com), a celebration of our local green spaces and the growing diversity of our school and the wider community. The big ideas your children brought to the workshops last June were full of fun, colour and fantasy and we think that each of these artworks represents just that.

As a Harding parent, local resident and artist, I am so pleased to have been a part of this project. If you would like any more information on this project, please get in touch via my website message page (www.astrlfibres.com).

Many Thanks, Alison Pascoe