



Principal: S Cumper
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Monday 28th June 2021



Harding Memorial Primary School
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Dear P1 – P7 Parent/Guardian

I would like to start this last letter of the 2020/2021 School Year by saying **THANK YOU**. We have had a year of many ups and downs, but everyone has been very patient, respectful to others, supportive and understanding. We are thankful to our Harding Memorial Primary School community. Next year we are hoping school will open up a little bit more, allowing us to run many more of the normal activities that our School is so proud to offer. We will keep you updated through our website as Pupil Seesaw Accounts will be put “into hibernation” over July and August. We are hopeful that the new school year experience for our children will resemble a return to Pre-Covid days and that disruption will become less frequent as we continue to move forward. It is however important that we are prepared and ready to adapt as the situation evolves. In this light, there may still be some risk mitigation measures in place come September 2021. I’m sure you appreciate it is too early to outline what these may be. The Department of Education and the Education Authority are intending to issue guidance to schools in Mid-August and once we have received this, then School will e mail you with updated information which should hopefully provide more clarity about Back to School Procedures and Routines. I would like to once again thank all our parents and friends of the school for your support and words of appreciation as we have navigated the challenges over the past 15 months.

Primary 1 to Primary 7 Sports Day – Well Done Boys and Girls

Fortunately we were able to get our Annual School Sports Day completed last week. Well done to everyone for taking part so well in all the Sports Day Races. This is an important occasion in the life of school and it was great to see so many children participating and enjoying the activities. Thank you to all our school staff for the organisation of each of these enjoyable events and thank you also to Cregagh Sports Club for allowing us to use their wonderful facilities which we were able to use with our Key Stage 2 children as the weather had improved in the afternoon. **The videos of the P1 – P4 and Key Stage 2 Sports Day are available to view on the School Website Latest News Section**

Free School Meal Applications - Opened on Monday 7th June 2021

The Education Authority (EA) has been issuing communications on the EA website and social media channels to inform parents/ guardians and continues to seek your support to promote awareness of Free School Meals and Clothing Allowances, and to encourage all potential applicants to apply for the support available.

- **All parents/ guardians (including new applicants) are required to apply on-line from Monday, 7th June 2021 via the EA website <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals>**

It is recommended that parents/ guardians apply during the month of June, or as early as possible in July, to enable applications to be processed for support to be in place for their children for the new school year. Parents/ Guardians are being advised of the importance of providing valid Bank or Building Society account details in the claimant’s own name. Payments cannot be made into Post Office accounts.

School Uniform Grants

The Free Schools Meals and Uniform Grants Helpdesk is operated by staff across the EA Free School Meals/ Uniform Grants service. It is available to assist parents/guardians and schools who may have any queries. The Helpdesk operates Monday – Friday from 9.00am to 4.30pm and can be contacted via email: mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk . The telephone number which should be used for all enquiries is: (028) 9041 8044. E-mails and telephone calls should no longer be made directly to individual Free School Meals/ Uniform staff as they will be diverted to the Helpdesk for response. Further information including eligibility criteria for the 2021-22 school year and a list of Frequently Asked Questions to assist with any parental queries can be accessed via = www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals

End of Year Annual Reports

P1 – P7 Reports have been sent home today in a sealed envelope with your child (Monday 28 June). The School Principal will e mail any uncollected reports to school families after the 30th June. They are intended to inform you of your child's ability, progress, attitude to work and social development within school during the 2020/2021 Academic Year. They are written in a diligent and professional manner by Teaching Staff and are viewed by School as an important aspect of an "open and honest" Home & School Partnership. At Harding Memorial Primary School we try hard to build self-esteem and therefore children get positive feedback on a daily basis from their Class Teachers. Nevertheless as children are taught in differentiated ability groups, some of the contents of the School Report may not be beneficial for you to share with your child. *If you discuss the report with your child, please emphasise the positive points and praise the effort made by each individual child.* We would like to highlight the **percentage attendance** of your child that is indicated at the front of the school report. We hope that the parent of any child who has **attendance below 95%** (95% attendance is judged to be satisfactory) will address this issue during the incoming school year.

Parental Information Update

The month of June is always a mixture of memories, celebrations, farewells and looking forward for our Primary 7 pupils. As we say goodbye to these children, we wish them every success and happiness in their new schools and hope that they bring enthusiasm and dedication to all the opportunities that will come their way in the days ahead. However, it is not just our P7's who will be leaving Harding Memorial Primary School at the end of the School Year and we would like to take this opportunity to formally update Parents and Pupils about a number of staff changes.

Mrs Wray is retiring at the end of the June after a significant period of service at Harding Memorial Primary School in her role as Classroom Assistant. I have personally worked with Patricia since 2008, but she has a connection with the school that goes back well beyond that time. I would like to thank her for the commitment and dedication she has shown to the pupils at our school and wish her a well-deserved retirement. We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and professionalism of three other members of school staff who are leaving Harding Memorial Primary School at the end of the current academic year – Miss Penton (P4), Miss Shaw (P5) and Miss Clarke (SC1). It has a pleasure with these dedicated members of staff and we wish them all the very best in the future.

A member of the School Teaching Staff will be known by a new name in 2021/2022. Miss Pollock will be known as Mrs Heatley as they are getting married in August and I am sure that Parents and Pupils would join me in sending them best wishes for their Special Day. I can also confirm that Mr Heatley will be teaching the P4 class with Mrs Baird during the incoming school year.

Primary 1 – Primary 7 Teaching Class Organisation for September 2021

(P1)	Room 3	Mrs R McMullan
(P2)	Room 6	Miss S Pollock (Mrs Heatley)
(P3)	Room 9	Mrs C McCormick / Mrs S Casserly
(P4)	Room 10	Mr Heatley /Mrs Baird
(P5)	Room 14	Miss S Woodside / Mrs E McMullan
(P6)	Room 16	Mrs J Kelly / Mrs A Asbury
(P7)	Room 17	Mrs C Murray
SC1		Mrs R McCausland
GLSC		Mrs A Morrow

End of Term Arrangements

- Pupils do not need to wear school uniform on Wednesday 30th June 2021.
- There will be **NO SCHOOL DINNERS AVAILABLE ON THIS DATE**
- **12.05pm** stopping time for P7 & GLSC and SC1
- **12.10pm** – stopping time for P2, P4 and P6
- **12.15pm** – stopping time for P1, P3 and P5

Finally, I would also like to say thank you to everyone associated with Harding Memorial 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 that everyone will have a warm, safe and restful Summer Holiday.

Mr S Cumper
Principal

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL (DP) 657 – HARDING MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

I refer to the above Development Proposal (DP) published by the Education Authority on 28 January 2021 proposing 'Harding Memorial Primary School will transform to Controlled Integrated Status with effect from 1 September 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter.'

The Minister has given careful consideration to this proposal and has decided to approve DP 657.

A full account of advice the Minister received to inform his decision, and a full narrative explaining the decision, will be published on the Department's website at: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/development-proposal-decisions-2021>.

During my time as Principal there have been considerable changes and developments within our School. I personally believe that Harding Memorial has a very special "niche market place" within the local school community. We are blessed to have Parents who have high aspirations for their Children. Our School has maintained a good reputation over a very long period and this reputation for quality is in no small measure due to the dedication and commitment of all School Staff and the support of our Parents to both the Pastoral and Curriculum aspects of day to day School Life. Thank You For Your Support.



HARDING MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Holiday List For The Academic Year = 2021/2022

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.”

✓ First Day of School

School will start for P2 to P7 pupils on Tuesday 31st August 2021 with school stopping for all pupils at 12.15pm (No School Dinners)

Half Term Holiday

School is closed from Monday 25th October 2021 – Friday 29th October 2021

➤ School Development Day – Wednesday 22nd December 2021

Harding Memorial Primary School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this date

✓ Christmas Holiday

School is closed from Thursday 23rd December 2021 – Monday 3rd January 2022

✓ Spring Term

School starts on Tuesday 4th January 2022

➤ School Development Days - Wednesday 16th February 2022

Harding Memorial Primary School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this date

✓ Spring Half Term Holiday

School is closed on Thursday 17th February 2022 and Friday 18th February 2022

✓ St Patrick's Day

School is closed on Thursday 17th March 2022

✓ Easter Holiday

School is closed from Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April 2022

✓ Summer Term

Summer term starts on Monday 25th April 2022

✓ May Day Holiday

School is closed on Monday 2nd May 2022

✓ Summer Half Term Holiday

School is closed on Thursday 2nd June and Friday 3rd June 2022

➤ School Development Day – Monday 6th June 2022

Harding Memorial Primary School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this date

➤ School Development Day – Monday 20th June 2022

Harding Memorial Primary School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this date

End of Summer Term – The last day of the Summer Term is Thursday 30th June 2022