



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

EDUCATION AUTHORITY



Harding Memorial Primary School  
105 Cregagh Road  
Belfast BT6 8PZ  
Telephone: 028 90458040  
Fax: 028 90460917

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear P1 – P7 Parent/Guardian

## **Thank You From Harding Memorial Primary School**

### **Harding Memorial Primary School Teaching and Non - Teaching Staff**

The Teaching and Non - Teaching Staff of our School provide so much for our children both inside and outside of the classroom. As School Principal I am indebted to all our staff for the many additional hours that they have spent in ensuring that our children have as rich a school experience as possible, especially as this First Term has been so different to previous years. I have confidence that their combined efforts enrich the lives of our children, our school and our whole school community. I would like to formally take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to all our school staff for their hard work this term. In particular, it is right to acknowledge the significant amount of additional work undertaken with the “new” Home Learning Initiatives e.g Seesaw & Bug Club etc.

### **School Board of Governors and P1 – P7 Parent/Guardians**

I am very grateful for the work and support of our Board of Governors who work so hard behind the scenes as they address the various administrative and financial challenges facing all Schools across Northern Ireland. I would also like to thank the many parents and friends associated with HMPS who have supported us during the First Term of the 2020/2021 Academic Year. We recognise the important role that our Parent/Guardians have in the education of their children and indeed in the smooth running of our busy school. The changes in our traditional day to day school routine have undoubtedly presented both Home and School with significant challenges but by working together I feel that we have managed to achieve a positive outcome for all the children in our care.

### **Our Primary 1 to Primary 7 Pupils**

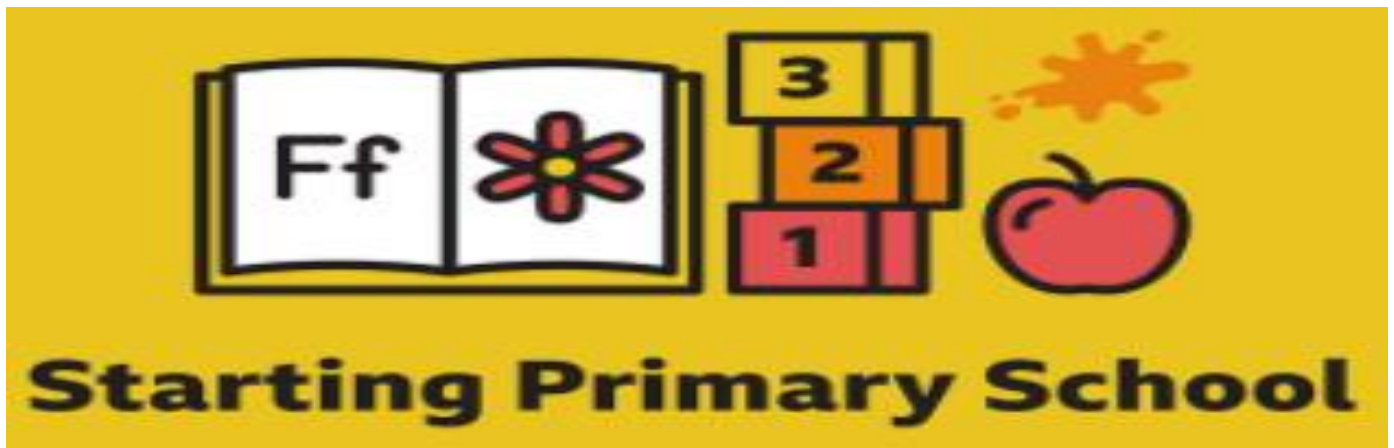
As always, this has proved to be an extremely busy term. It is our intention as a school to create a high expectation atmosphere within Harding Memorial which will enable our children to reach their full potential. Covid has made many very significant changes to our established school routines and it has undoubtedly been disappointing for our children that extra-curricular activities have been curtailed this year. Nevertheless their constant smiling faces as they play together so well in the playground is a very positive source of inspiration to all the adults in the school. School was so quiet from March to June and it is great to once again have that “hum of noisy excitement” within our school environment.



## Harding Memorial Primary School Digital Christmas Concert

The Primary 1 – Primary 7 Digital Christmas Show Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 was a fantastic success and was great to see so many children in their Christmas jumpers. The performances by all the Classes are outstanding and we would like to say a special thank you to Chris the Cameraman for all his hard work and patience during a very busy but productive day. As soon as the video is finalised and uploaded to the school website, we will then send out an Information Text Message to all School Families.

We will have a special visitor arriving in school tomorrow – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 who will be making a short appearance at all Primary 1 to Primary 7 Classes and he will be giving a small “thank you” to all our children for their fantastic behaviour since the start of the new School Year. We would like to thank the **“Chief Elf Lindsey”** from the Tesco Community Staff for her excellent support with the organisations of this visit as well as the PTFA for their generous financial support.



**If you know of any Parent/Guardian who has a child that is due to start Primary 1 in September 2021, please encourage them to make contact with myself as the Principal of Harding Memorial Primary School in order that we can arrange a Telephone Appointment with them to discuss our School. We are always keen to provide a Question and Answer Session about the future plans of HMPS including providing an update on the “Process of Transformation to a Controlled Integrated Primary School.”**

**We will also be offering Prospective Primary 1 Parents and their children “Socially Distanced tours of our School in January 2021” which can now be booked by e mailing the School. Full details about how and when to apply for a place in P1 at Harding Memorial Primary School can be found on our website as well as a **Welcome to Harding Memorial Primary School Video****

**[www.hardingmemorial.org.uk](http://www.hardingmemorial.org.uk)**

## Parents in Partnership

The Northern Ireland Executive are in an unenviable position as each decision they take can have massive implications but as Principal of Harding Memorial Primary School I can confirm that I am extremely worried of the impact that "Positive Covid Case" in the last week of term would have upon School Families this Christmas. I have tried during the First Term to keep Parent/Guardians as well informed as possible and this occasion is no different, yet it is arguably more important than any other previous time. To have a positive case in the last week of term, for example today Monday 14th December, would mean a significant period of isolation for that child/children or member(s) of staff who have been identified as a close contact by the Public Health Agency.

➤ **In a Primary School this would likely be every member of the class protective bubble.**

Please be mindful that there will be a higher level of risk of transmission presented within our school community this week, because people are able to move more freely than they have in recent times. We urge all stakeholders in our school to please continue to adhere to our Infection Control procedures as well as the safety procedures in shops, supermarkets, restaurants and every other reopening sector for as long as needed to keep us all safe and our classes open. As always, please feel free to contact me at your earliest possible convenience if you have any questions or queries about the information above or any other aspect of our school routine.

## End of Term 1

❖ **Unless we hear otherwise from Stormont, the planned date for the end of Term 1 is Friday 18th December 2020.**

- School will close at 12.00pm for all Primary 1, Primary 3 and Primary P5 pupils
- School will close at 12.10pm for all Primary 2, Primary 4 and Primary 6 pupils
- School will close at 12.15pm for all Primary 7 pupils
- ✓ Harding Memorial Primary School will re-open after the Christmas Holiday on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at the usual time.
- ✓ Unfortunately, there will not be any school dinners available on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and we ask that your child brings in a packed lunch on that date.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Cumper

Principal

Harding Memorial Primary School