

EDUCATION AUTHORITY



Principal: S Cumper
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Monday 15th February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian



Harding Memorial Primary School
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As we approach Half-Term I want to take opportunity to say thank you to everyone connected with Harding Memorial Primary School for all their continued support during this extended period of Lockdown. There is still a large degree of uncertainty around "School Return" but I think that all can do is to work with what we know, which is that the earliest date for return is Monday 8th March 2021. Thank you to P1 – P6 Parents and Teachers alike for participating in the recent set of Telephone Interviews. I know these conversations have been different than in previous years but I think have been very important in maintaining connection between Home and School and strengthening both support for your child's learning and care for their well-being. Thank you for the many positive comments that Parents have made about the ongoing support that you and our children are receiving through Remote Learning and Lockdown in general. This is very encouraging to hear as we constantly strive to develop a "School at the Heart of the Community with the Community at the Heart of our School". I know that despite the difficulties ahead we will all continue to work together to enable all our pupils to thrive and fulfil their potential both inside and outside of the Classroom.

As we continue to face uncertainty about the Covid Pandemic, we are blessed to have such a supportive and positive school community, who all work together effectively to meet the needs of our children. In continuation with this spirit of positivity I am pleased to confirm with School Stakeholders that the Education Authority have agreed to make a very significant financial investment in our school. This funding will enable the "Outside of our School to be Painted". This decision is a very positive development and once again is a public affirmation of the very positive future for our School in a Department of Education Area Based Primary School Planning Context. As School Principal I am convinced that Harding Memorial Primary School continues to have a very special "niche market place" within the local school community. I wish to keep all "School Stakeholders" fully informed about the Process of Transformation at Harding Memorial Primary School and can confirm that Development Proposal (Number 657) was discussed by the Education Authority's Education Committee at its meeting on 14 January 2021. The Education Authority supports the proposal to transform Harding Memorial Primary School to Controlled Integrated Status and it is the intention of the School Transformation Action Group to organise a School Stakeholder Zoom Meeting on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 8.00pm. Additional information will be distributed to all School Parent/Guardians in advance of this meeting. DP 657 can be accessed at: <https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/area-planning/development-proposals/harding-memorial-primary-school>

School will be Closed for Half Term on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February

We hope our Pupils, Staff and Parents will use this time for some respite from Home Learning and get the opportunity to spend some quality time together as a family. I know that the Half Term Holiday is going to be a bit different this year but please take care and have fun. Remote Learning for Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils will resume from Monday 22nd February 2021 onwards.

A Lockdown Poem by Yasmin and her Mummy

What has lockdown meant to you?
Haven't you taken a new view,
Of how to school, of how to teach,
With the little ones all out of reach?

It must feel strange and not so real,
And weird and different and just surreal,
To not have them all pouring in,
Kicking up an almighty din!

There's See- Saw now with its drawing tool,
A daily part of mummy school,
And don't forget CBBC,
With many things to watch and see.

So now we parents understand,
The power of teacher's loving hand,
Reaching out to help them learn,
Week after week, term after term.

Here we are, almost a year,
Of anxious times and awful fear,
With finger nails down to the core,
Wondering if we can take much more.

Have courage now, stand up, be strong,
Together we can right this wrong,
We won't give up without a fight,
Be brave and love with all your might.

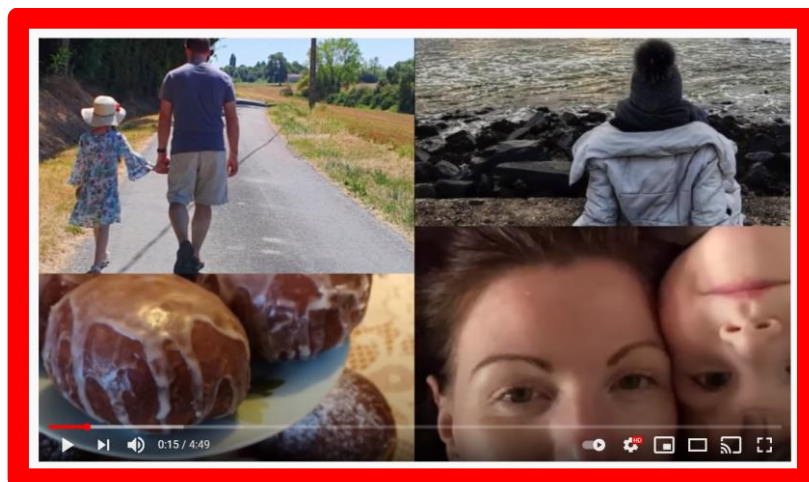
Who knows what news this year will bring,
Let's look forward to the spring,
When you will do what you've always
done,
Take care of P seven,
Six, five, four,
Three, two, one

Harding Memorial Primary School Valentine Video

Thank you so much for your beautiful pictures for our Valentine's Video, we hope you love it. It is great to see that love is still in the air. Thank you also for all your kind comments and well wishes. We miss you all and can't wait until we see you all again.

We are planning to make our third, and probably final instalment of Harding At Home in the next couple of weeks so if you have any more photographs please email them to us at info@hardingmemorial.sch.ni.uk

Remember that we will be putting them on the Internet so if you send us a photograph we are assuming your consent for this to happen.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KI-m0mYXhyw>