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Harding Memorial Primary School
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Monday 15th March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

It was an absolute joy for me as School Principal to witness the successful return of our Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 Pupils for "Face to Face Teaching" in Harding Memorial Primary School last week. It has made such a difference to the atmosphere in School as our classrooms and corridors are once again alive with the sounds of learning and teaching. It has been wonderful to see our children run in through the gates of school with smiles on their faces. Thank you to all our Parent/Guardians for preparing your children so well for their return. Last week was a very positive experience and we look forward to building on this in the days ahead.

We were delighted to have received formal e mail confirmation from the Department of Education that our P1, P2 and P3 children will remain in school until Easter. However, decisions as yet have not been finalised for our Primary 4 – Primary 7 pupils. Clarification on the last week before Easter for P4 - P7 pupils appears to be on the agenda for the Executive this week. Hopefully both Schools and Parents will then be speedily informed about any potential changes to Remote Learning arrangements for the P4 – P7 Year Groups.

The decision by the NI Executive will be based on how transmission rates within the community have been impacted by children returning to school. With that in mind, we would encourage all School Stakeholders to please continue to engage with our organisational procedures around the school site which have kept us all safe so far. In particular, we would like to draw attention to the signs recently installed by the Department of Education at the Front and Side Entrance Gates to the School. Parents are asked to maintain social distance at all times outside Harding Memorial Primary School. Please continue to collect your children promptly at "Home Time" and please do not gather together on the areas outside school in accordance with public health guidance.

The 2021 lockdown has been a really challenging time for everyone and no two households are facing the same pressures and strains. This has been a "*long haul*" for everyone and we sincerely thank you all for the work you have all made in these strange times. As a school we will continue to support you and you children as best we can both now and in the future.



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/](https://nidirect.gov.uk/) CORONAVIRUS TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

COVID INFECTION CONTROL REMINDER

We may appear “fussier about this than normal”, especially for working parents, but we ask for your patience and understanding in advance during these most challenging of times. Please do not send your Child/Children to Harding Memorial Primary School if they are unwell, **particularly if they have any covid symptoms.**

- **High Temperature, New / Persistent Cough, Loss of taste or smell – Stay at home, isolate and book a test. <https://covid-19.hscni.net/testing>**
- **Inform school immediately and advise us of the result as soon as possible.**
- **Pupils do not return until symptoms have gone for at least 48 hours – even if the test result was negative.**

Where a child has been in school it is essential that Parents inform the School Principal by email immediately if he / she becomes unwell with Covid symptoms or is being tested, even if the result ends up being negative. It is very important that we have the most up-to-date contact details for parents and carers especially if we need to contact you during the school day. **If during this period of sustained lockdown, you have changed your mobile number, email address or home address we ask that you email Mrs Shannon in the School Office with your updated contact information.**

➤ **The Harding Memorial Primary School building is closed to all visitors except our Children, Staff and Essential Visiting Workers.**

➤ **All School Parent/Guardians will be actively discouraged from entering our School Building as a means of preventing spread of the virus.**

➤ **Instead we encourage communication by either telephoning the school 90458040 or by emailing info@hardingmemorial.belfast.ni.sch.uk**



Please remember that Harding Memorial Primary School will be closed for all Face to Face and Remote Learning on Wednesday 17th March 2021



Integrated Education brings together pupils, staff and governors from Protestant, Catholic and other cultural traditions within a single school community.

As we continue to face uncertainty about the Covid Pandemic, Harding Memorial Primary School is blessed to have such a supportive and positive school community, who all work together effectively to meet the needs of our children. I hope that you will have noticed the recent painting refurbishment that has been undertaken by the Education Authority on the outside of our school. This very significant financial investment in our school is another very positive development and 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 therefore wish to take this opportunity to update all "School Stakeholders" about the Process of Transformation at Harding Memorial Primary School. The School Stakeholder Zoom Meeting on Wednesday 10th March 2021 was very well attended and we would like to thank the various representatives from NICIE and IEF for all their assistance with this meeting.

The Education Authority supports the proposal to transform Harding Memorial Primary School to Controlled Integrated Status and Development Proposal 657 can be accessed at:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/area-planning/development-proposals/harding-memorial-primary-school>



- **The deadline for commenting about the Development Proposal for Harding Memorial to Transform to a Controlled Integrated School is 29th March 2021**
- **Please email: dps@education-ni.gov.uk**
- **Use the subject heading: Harding Memorial DP657 – Public Consultation Response**
- **And write a few lines, a few paragraphs or an essay to say that you think it's a good idea. There is no form to fill in, or any particular question to answer**
- **After this date, the Minister for education will make his decision about Development Proposal 657**