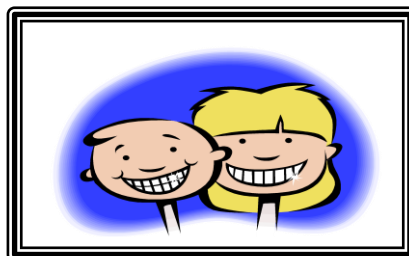




Principal: S Cumper  
info@hardingmemorial.belfast.ni.sch.uk

## EDUCATION AUTHORITY



Harding Memorial Primary School  
105 Cregagh Road  
Belfast BT6 8PZ  
Telephone: 028 90458040  
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Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I trust this latest information update finds you well and I hope that you and your children are enjoying the recent good weather. As I have welcomed our pupils into school over the last few weeks, there has been a really positive atmosphere, with the sun out, blue skies and a general feeling amongst society that the future looks positive. However as you have been previously informed Harding Memorial Primary School is still following Department of Education Covid Infection Control Guidance and advice for our risk mitigation measures. We have been very fortunate that to date we have not had to ask a class to self-isolate due to a confirmed P.H.A. Covid Case and we hope to continue that this will be the case for the whole of this last school term. We would like to remind all our Parent/Guardians to keep their distance when waiting in school grounds to leave or collect children and would like to thank you in advance for your continuing consideration to others.

### Scooters and Bicycles in School

Harding Memorial Primary School recognises the many positive benefits of pupils Cycling and Scooting to and from school. We encourage the children (and their Parents/Carers) to take advantage of the improving weather and make their way, or at least part of the way, to school on foot.). We would remind you to please be mindful of social distancing when walking to school. Some of the benefits of cycling to school include:

- Improving health through physical activity
- Establishing positive active travel behaviours
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community
- Reducing environmental impact of the journey to school

To make cycling to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- ✓ Ride sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code
- ✓ Take responsibility for checking that their bicycle is roadworthy and regularly maintained
- ✓ Behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling
- ✓ Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using bicycle lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate

### ❖ **We strongly recommend the wearing of Cycle Helmets by all Children at HMPS**

The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle to and from school safely rests with the Parents/Carer and Harding Memorial Primary School has no liability for any consequences of that decision or for the security of any Bicycles or Scooters that have been left on School Premises.

**Harding Memorial Primary School would formally request that all Scooters and Bicycles are “secured by a lock” when they are left in the School Playground.**

- Follow the Sustrans Top Tips to secure your bike/scooter and stop it from being stolen.  
<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/get-active/2019/everyday-walking-and-cycling/bike-security-advice>

## **The Safe Use of Technology - Mobile Phones**

Harding Memorial strongly discourages Primary School Age Pupils from bringing mobile phones to school. However we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone to school due to "*Exceptional Pastoral Care Circumstances*". **Nevertheless these "Exceptional Pastoral Care Circumstances" should be discussed beforehand with the Principal, Mr Cumper, either by personal contact or by providing a written request from the child's Parent/Guardian.** If a pupil has been granted "*permission by the School Principal to bring a Mobile Phone to School*", it is expected that this Mobile Phone will remain switched off while pupils are in class, the school building and the school grounds. Should Parents need to contact pupils, or vice versa, this should be done following the usual school procedures: via the school office and Mrs Shannon or Mr Cumper. If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken according to the School's Discipline Policy. Parents are advised that Harding Memorial accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into the school or school grounds. Finally we would encourage all Parent/Guardians to take time to talk to their children about who is entitled to use his/her mobile number and the potential danger of misuse of text messages with the associated risks of potential Cyber Bullying. We would like to particularly highlight the following web link regarding information on how to "*Stop Malicious Calls & Texts*"

<https://ee.co.uk/help/help-new/safety-and-security/content-lock/blocking-unwanted-calls-and-texts>

We have become increasingly aware in school that some of our pupils are using various social media platforms to communicate with others outside school. Whilst I agree that this type of Communication Technology was particularly beneficial for families during the recent Lockdowns, I must stress to all Parent/Guardians that it is their responsibility to monitor what their child/children are doing online and also who they are communicating with. You should also be aware that for most social media platforms **the minimum age is 12 or 16 – which is above the age group of our Primary School Pupils**. If your child has their own digital device e.g. tablet or phone, please take some time to monitor what is on their device and to ensure that they are using the technology in a safe and appropriate manner. The information **contained below** may be of beneficial to Parent/Guardians in this respect: <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting>

We are very fortunate in Harding Memorial Primary School that our children come from supportive, caring families, but sometimes we all need a bit of support and if necessary, please feel free to seek advice from the School Safeguarding Team. Their role is to promote a safeguarding culture in our school and act to ensure that all our pupils are safe and well cared for. If you have concerns or worries about any child in school, you may speak to the following members of the Safeguarding Team: **Mr Cumper** (Designated Teacher) or **Mrs Baird** (Deputy Designated Teacher).

## **Parent Information Update – School Fund**

It has been customary at School to ask for a voluntary contribution from each Family towards School Fund. Such contributions are becoming increasingly more important to the day to day running of a school. This is especially relevant due to current Funding Crisis in the Northern Ireland Education System as School Fund is an important source of income which helps to subsidise learning trips out of school, events in school and to buy smaller learning resources for the children.

- ❖ However as School Principal I have become increasingly aware through anecdotal conversations with School Stakeholder about the negative impact of Covid on family finances, **Harding Memorial Primary School has decided that we will not be asking for any School Fund Donation for the Current 2020/2021 School Academic Year.**

# EDUCATION RESTART

**WE ALL  
MUST DO IT  
TO GET  
THROUGH IT**



LIMIT SOCIAL  
CONTACTS



KEEP  
DISTANCE



WEAR FACE  
COVERINGS



WASH  
HANDS

**EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN KEEPING OUR SCHOOLS SAFE AND HELPING TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

## **EVERYONE SHOULD CONTINUE TO:**

- ✓ **Wash** hands regularly
- ✓ **Cover** coughs and sneezes
- ✓ **Wear** a face covering where necessary
- ✓ **Practise** social distancing
- ✓ **Follow** the latest public health advice

## **WHAT SHOULD I NOT DO?**

- ✓ **Don't** send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms or if they have been identified as a close contact
- ✓ **Don't** allow your child to use public transport unless you have no alternative
- ✓ **Don't** gather at the school entrance/gate
- ✓ **Don't** allow your child to share food/drinks with friends

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

- ✓ **Do** let the school know if your child will be absent due to COVID-19 symptoms
- ✓ **Do** follow the advice given if you have been contacted by the PHA Contact Tracing Service
- ✓ **Do** encourage your child to socially distance if it is possible
- ✓ **Do** encourage good hand hygiene
- ✓ **Do** use alternative transport if you can
- ✓ **Do** walk or cycle if it's safe and appropriate to do so
- ✓ **Do** use park and ride or other car-parking facilities (if available), and walk the remainder of the journey to school
- ✓ **Do** avoid parking close to or at the school gates
- ✓ **Do** encourage the use of face coverings on school transport and in post-primary schools/ settings
- ✓ **Do** encourage and supervise your child to carry out a COVID-19 test if they have been invited to participate

**FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS, CAN BE FOUND ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S WEBSITE AT: [WWW.EDUCATION-NI.GOV.UK](http://WWW.EDUCATION-NI.GOV.UK)**