



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

Monday 18th January 2020

Dear Parent

As we continue another week of Home Learning, I hope this latest correspondence finds you well. Hopefully, it is another week closer to the return of all our children to the school building, which is where they learn best. We acknowledge that the whole concept of Remote Learning is as a last resort and does not even begin to substitute the “Face to Face School Teaching Environment and Atmosphere”. We also recognise that each Family Situation is different and may very well be different each day within that household. So please be aware that we do understand what life may be like and that Remote Learning is challenging. We probably have a little way to go before things can get back to normal, but School will continue to do our best over the coming weeks to support you. In the meantime we hope that everyone will be able to celebrate and enjoy the Christmas Concert video which is available to view via the School Website – www.hardingmemorial.org.uk



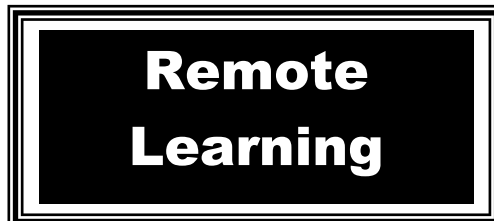
Harding Memorial Primary School
 105 Cregagh Road
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 Telephone: 028 90458040
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The P3 & P4 Christmas Virtual Concert is also available for you to view by accessing the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPy4vss20rg>

PRIMARY 1 APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

The Education Authority Online Portal for Primary 1 applications for September 2021 is now live and to make an application simply **click on the link below** which will take you directly to the EA website www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. The application process itself is relatively straightforward. There has been a very heavy demand on the EA website over the past couple of days and some parents have experienced difficulty with the website. This year, you must upload a copy of your child's birth certificate to the online portal. If you need any help with the online application process feel free to make e mail contact with school and we will be happy to help. Children born between 2nd July 2016 and 1st July 2017 will have reached compulsory school age for enrolment in Primary School by September 2021. If you know of any parent who has a child due to start P1 in September 2021, please encourage them to contact the School. Unfortunately, due to COVID we have been unable to have our annual Open Night and invite Prospective Parents into Harding Memorial Primary School but we are still able to offer an individual Virtual Video Tour of our School and this facility can be arranged by e mailing eshannon845@c2kni.net as soon as possible. **Please note that the closing date for applications to admission for Primary 1 for September 2021 is Friday 29th January 2021 at 12.00pm.**



As I previously stated many times during the Spring/Summer closure of schools, Home Learning can never replicate what happens in the Classroom. But we will continue to do our utmost to make the Remote Learning provision for your child during this period of closure as quality an educational experience as possible. We would like to thank all our School Families for adapting once again to the demands of online learning. As a School we understand this is not easy, especially for those parents who are balancing jobs or sharing devices at home. We are here to support you in any way that we can. I can only encourage you to find a balance of what you can reasonably achieve at home alongside the other demands you face at this time – this will be different for each Family. With this in mind we have a few organisational suggestions that may assist with Remote Learning:

- ✓ Please keep a routine with the children each day getting up, getting dressed and following a daily schedule as suggested by your Child's Class Teacher via Seesaw
- ✓ Please connect to Seesaw where and when possible and complete the work posted by your Child's Class Teacher - where possible
- ✓ Please don't stress and panic if all the work is not completed. These are not normal times
- ✓ We do what we can. If you manage to get all the work completed – **GREAT**. If you manage to get some work completed – **GREAT**. If you don't manage to get any work we sent home completed, but you have found online resources and activities to complete linked to your child's ability – **GREAT**. Anything is better than nothing!
- ✓ We would all prefer to have the children in school engaging in normal school life within our school environment, however we also understand the need to have the minimum number of people in school to reduce the transmission of the virus.
- ✓ Finally, we want to emphasise that we are here to support all the children and parents through this time of home learning and will do everything we can to make it as manageable as possible.

Primary 1 – Primary 6 Parent/Teacher Interviews

We would traditionally have arranged Face to Face Parent & Teacher Interviews for Parent/Guardians in Term 1. However once again the current Covid situation in wider society has meant that we have had to make alternative arrangements for the current school year. Therefore, I wish to confirm that all Primary 1 – Primary 6 Parents will be offered a Ten Minute Telephone Interview as listed on the Planning Timetable below. These appointments will obviously be very different interviews than traditional Face to Face Meetings but will still be an opportunity for you to have a conversation with your Child's Teacher about Remote Learning and about their general classroom progress during Term 1. Your child's class teacher will be in contact with you individually via Seesaw to plan and co-ordinate these Telephone Interviews.

Primary 2 Parent Teacher Interviews	Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th January 2021
Primary 1 Parent Teacher Interviews	Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January 2021
Primary 3 Parent Teacher Interviews	Friday 29th January and Monday 1st February 2021
Primary 4 Parent Teacher Interviews	Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd February 2021
Primary 5 Parent Teacher Interviews	Thursday 4th and Friday 5th February 2021
Primary 6 Parent Teacher Interviews	Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th February 2021

We recognise that the next couple of weeks will be extremely challenging for everyone. We are so thankful to all those who are serving us as frontline workers in whatever capacity and especially those in our Health Service. Please continue to keep our whole school community in your thoughts and prayers that everyone will know protection from all illnesses, accidents, danger and harm and especially from the very present dangers of COVID 19.

Yours sincerely
Mr S Cumper
Principal

**PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS
FROM COVID-19 BY ...**

**#COVID19
#STAYHOME**

we care • we listen • we act

Police Service of Northern Ireland