

EDUCATION AUTHORITY



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

Monday 1st February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian



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

It is staggering to think that we are at the start of February and that a whole month of Remote/Home Learning has taken place. It is universally acknowledged that “On-Line Learning” is no substitute for traditional Face to Face Classroom Learning, but I think that all our School Families deserve huge credit for their excellent efforts since the start of the New Year. The School Seesaw Statistical Information has clearly demonstrated just how strong Parental Engagement has been despite the many daily challenges that families currently face during Lockdown. There has been a tremendous amount of work submitted On-Line and an encouraging level of positivity despite the obvious challenges that such an undertaking produces. We would encourage all Parents, Pupils and Staff to be realistic and measured in your approach and time management to your daily online routine.

We are very mindful of those within our own School Community that have been afflicted by ill-health issues and in particular by COVID. Over these days, weeks and months, many have experienced a feeling of helplessness and, due to restrictions, an inability to be on hand for a loved-one and to be able to care, love and support them. The message of staying safe, can never be reiterated too much and with renewed determination, we must all strive to maintain our part by staying at home, keeping a good physical distance from one another, washing our hands and covering our faces, so that the transmission of this virus can be significantly reduced alongside the increase in people being vaccinated.

It is crucially important for our own mental health and that of our children, that we try and look forward with the optimism that difficult times always end. Please remember that we as a school are always here to help or support you in any way we can. We are Educators first and foremost, but we understand these aren't “normal times” for anyone. We understand your children may not get everything done every day. We understand the pressures of your own job may make home schooling more difficult. We understand things “just come up” and make completing work difficult. Please, from the bottom of my heart, do not worry. 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 !

As a school, we are happy that each of our children are being well cared for at home, that each of our children are warm and content every day, that each of our children feel loved and appreciated, and that each of our children know this isn't their fault or their parent's fault and that we will return to some form of normality as soon as we possibly can. Those things are the most important for us as a school. Please know that you are doing enough. Please know that we see and appreciate the lengths you are going to in order to support your child through these incredibly challenging times. We are delighted to see all that you have been up to at home. We are proud to see that everyone is doing their best in the circumstances to make the most of the time. **We are constantly encouraged by the happy, smiling faces in all the photographs used to make the Harding at Home Videos.**

We, at Harding Memorial Primary School, only ever ask our children **“to do their best”**. We cannot ask for anything more than that. We know that each and every child is doing their best. We also know that each and every one of our School Families are doing their best. Keep it up, keep on going, and keep the belief that the “Covid Crisis” will eventually come to an end for us all. We are missing everyone in school and we look forward to a day when we can all return safely to our school building. Remember to take time for yourself and look after one another. We have less than three weeks to go until a well-earned rest for everyone during the February Half Term break on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February 2021. Please continue to do the very best you can with Home Learning. At the risk of repeating myself, I acknowledge and understand how difficult these days are, juggling all your commitments as Parents, so continue to set yourself realistic and Family Friendly targets. Family disharmony and unhappiness is simply not a price worth paying.



Parentline NI is open from 9.00am to 9.00pm Monday to Thursday, 9-5pm Friday and 9.00am to 1.00 pm on Saturday. Our Service is available through a range of different channels including telephone, face to face and online.

Call us for FREE on: 0808 8020 400 Email: parentline@ci-ni.org.uk You can also call and leave a message outside of our opening hours, and we will get back to you within 2 working days.

Primary 1 – Primary 6 Parent/Teacher Interviews

The P1 and P2 Parent Teacher Interviews have been completed and Parental Feedback has been very positive with Parent/Guardians acknowledging that previous comments about Remote/Home Learning have been taken onboard and adjustments made accordingly. These Telephone 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.

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



Harding At Home Part 2

Thank you so much to everyone who has sent in their pictures of Harding at Home. The second video is below and it shows pictures sent to school before the 29th January 2021. We hope to make a third video so please continue to send us your Pictures of Harding at Home !!!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tS2dx4iT1xc>

Accessing Seesaw from Xbox or PlayStation

Accessing SeeSaw via Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard in to the USB Slot
2. Go into my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Go to <https://www.google.com/>
5. Search for SeeSaw
6. To move around you can use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse



Accessing SeeSaw via Playstation

1. identify the Playstation internet browser icon (it is www with dots around it)
2. Press the Playstation logo on the controller
3. Go into library and find options for games and applications
4. Go to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Go to <https://www.google.com/>
5. Search for SeeSaw
6. To move around you can use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse



Safer Internet Day will be on the 9th February 2021

Safer Internet Day 2021 will be celebrated in the UK with the theme:

An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021>



An internet we trust
Exploring reliability in the online world



**Safer
Internet
Day 2021**

**UK Safer
Internet
Centre**

Remote Learning for Safer Internet Day Ages 3-7

This Safer Internet Day we want to support all settings and young people in exploring the theme, **'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world.'**

With many young people now learning remotely, this document provides an overview of some of the resources provided by the UK Safer Internet Centre and their partners that mean all young people can join in the celebrations, wherever they are.



Education Pack for Ages 3-7

This pack includes an assembly, lesson plan and activity menu designed for delivery with 3-7 year olds. They come with slides to support with adaptation for remote learning and are inspired by the story *Detective Digiduck*. This story can be found and shared with learners and their families at: childnet.com/detective-digiduck. On this page, you will also find a special video reading by the author.

If you would prefer to make your own recording of the story, schools and other settings are invited to record their own readings. These must be hosted and shared privately, with original credit for the stories given to Childnet and the author, Lindsay Buck.



Remote Learning for Safer Internet Day

Ages 7-11

This Safer Internet Day we want to support all settings and young people in exploring the theme, '**An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world.**'

With many young people now learning remotely, this document provides an overview of some of the resources provided by the UK Safer Internet Centre and their partners that mean all young people can join in the celebrations, wherever they are.



Education Pack for Ages 7-11

This pack includes an assembly, lesson plan and activity menu designed for delivery with 7-11 year olds. They come with slides to support with adaptation for remote learning. The pack also includes a document with social media and campaign activities. Educators are invited to pick and mix from the activities in the education pack and adapt for their learners.



Depending on your setting's approach, you may wish to consider the following suggestions:

I want to do a live video session with my learners

Use the **Assembly Slides** and **Script** to introduce Safer Internet Day and this year's theme. The assembly is easily adaptable and can be delivered by screensharing.

If learners can interact directly via video, try *Two Truths and a Lie* from the **Activity Menu**. This is a great game which can keep your learners connected when they can't meet in person, whilst allowing you to introduce some of the key messages around this year's theme.