



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



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

Monday 1st March 2021

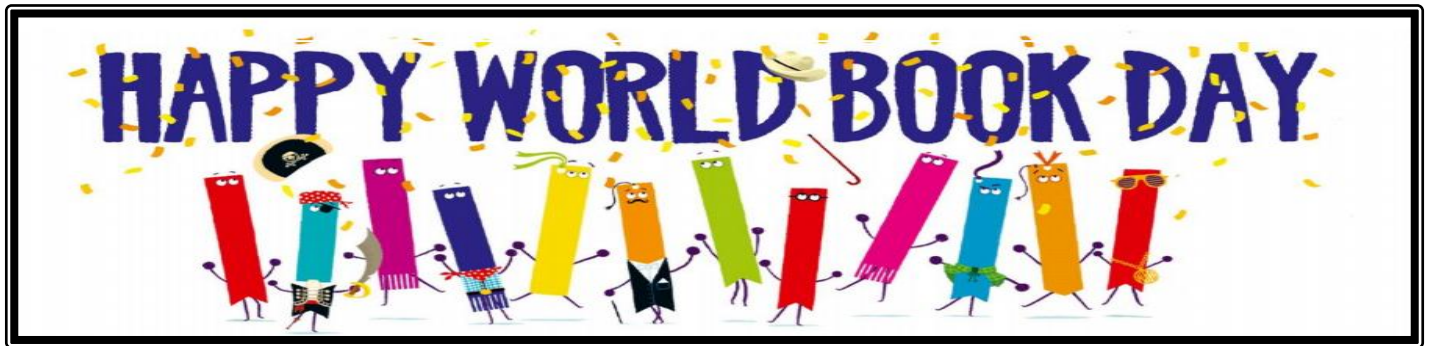
Dear P1 – P7 Parent/Guardian

I hope that all of Pupils, Parents and Staff are all staying safe and keeping well. Harding Memorial Primary School want to thank everyone for their excellent engagement with Home/Remote Learning over the last two months. Unquestionably this situation been a difficult time for everyone, but I would encourage you all to keep going with this important work as this will really benefit your Child/Children in the longer term. The end of the month of February always brings with it increasingly brighter evenings and the promise of Spring, which will hopefully give us all a bit of a lift after a difficult Winter Season. There has been a lot of coverage of school return plans commencing on Monday 8th March 2021 and the recent interventions and communications from the First Minister and the Minister for Education may have led to some uncertainty. However, I can now confirm the following information with Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 Parent/Guardians

Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 Children will return to school for Face to Face Teaching on Monday 8th March 2021 at their usual starting times

- **Primary 2 pupils will start at 8.45am and Primary 2 pupils will stop at 1.50pm**
- **Primary 3 pupils will start at 8.55am and Primary 3 Pupils will stop at 1.50pm**
- **Primary 1 pupils will start at 9.00am and Primary 1 pupils will stop at 2.00pm**
- **Primary 1 and Primary 2 Pupils will enter and exit at Mrs Shannon's office. They will use the main entrance and exit gate from the Cregagh Road at the Front of School**
- **Primary 3 Pupils will enter and exit at the P3/P4 Playground Door. They will use the entrance and exit side gate at Dromore Street**

As the situation currently stands, Primary 1 to Primary 3 Pupils are meant to return to Home/Remote Learning for the final week of term (week beginning Monday 22nd March) and Primary 4 to Primary 7 pupils will continue to learn remotely until after the Easter break. But it should be acknowledged that there is still a degree of uncertainty around these dates. It appears that we will still have to endure the speculation, uncertainty, online arguments and confusion that "fill the void" until a final update is provided by the Department of Education to both Schools and Parents. It is an incredibly frustrating time as I know that Face to Face Teaching in School is far more preferable to Home/Remote Learning. Nevertheless, I am confident that by Harding Memorial Primary School Pupils, Parents and Staff working together as a Team, we will be able to shape the way ahead for all our children, to support their emotional health and well-being as we move forward, helping them to be engaged and motivated to learn, to re-establish friendships and to re-connect with staff in school. If it takes a bit more time to ensure an earlier but safe restart can be achieved, then we will all have to be patient for a little while longer. Regardless of what organisational changes are announced by the Department of Education, we will be prepared and ready to support you and your children either in school or remotely as has been the case throughout the last year.



This year World Book Day is going to be a little bit different. However, we are very pleased to confirm that we will be providing all P1 to P7 pupils with the opportunity to watch Robin Hood and His Socially Distanced Men on Thursday 4th March 2021. Information on how to “Log Onto this Event” including the Access Code will be sent out to all P1 – P7 pupils via Seesaw by individual Class Teachers on Thursday.



Please note that Harding Memorial Primary School will be closed for St Patricks Day on Wednesday 17th March 2021. There will be NO Remote or Supervised Learning on this date



THE MOY PARK CHALLENGE Moy Park, in conjunction with Young Enterprise NI, are running the Moy Park Challenge, a challenge designed for 8 - 12 year olds to come up with an exciting new chicken product. Details about the competition can be found via this link:

www.yeni.co.uk/moyparkchallenge

If you are looking for something beyond the School Home/Remote Learning being set, please feel free to use this as another activity





ParentingNI

MARCH MOOD BUSTER COFFEE MORNING!

Celebrate International Day of
Happiness and relax on our Zoom
Coffee Morning.

Join the Parenting NI team as we
chat about methods to lift your
mood this March!

.....
TUESDAY 16TH MARCH

10.30am - 11.00am

FREE EVENT

.....
ONLINE VIA ZOOM.

EMAIL CATHERINE@PARENTINGNI.ORG TO SIGN UP!



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

In June 2019, the parents of pupils at Harding Memorial Primary School were asked to vote on whether the Board of Governors should submit a proposal to transform to become an Integrated school.

212 people voted (67% turn out) and 185 of them voted YES (87%)

During 2020, the Education Authority asked local schools and others for their opinion. No local school or organisation made any objection. The Education Authority have expressed their support.

They want to hear what local people and other schools and organisations think about the proposal. To have your say, send an email to dps@education-ni.gov.uk by **29th March 2021**. After this date, the Minister for education will make his decision about the proposal.

There is no form to fill in, or any particular question to answer. The Department basically want to know if you support the proposal.

We need your support!

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.

The process has been delayed by the pandemic, but has now been published, by the Department of Education and can be viewed here <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/node/49411>

We are hosting an update meeting via Zoom on Wednesday 10th March at 8pm and we would love you to join us.

The link to attend this meeting is below

<https://zoom.us/j/2972032993?pwd=aDVGWnBDK09vZEtWQk9HSnIPRi9UZz09>