

## EDUCATION AUTHORITY



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Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear P1 – P7 Parent/Guardian

It has been approximately one year since Harding Memorial Primary School “closed for the first lockdown” in March 2020 and we have today celebrated having all our Primary 1 to Primary 7 Classes back in school together following what we trust will be our last lockdown. While it is only five days to the Easter holidays, this week will provide an opportunity for both Pupils, Parents and Staff to get settled back into the routine of School, have time with friends and catch-up and make preparation for our Summer Term. It was really great this morning to see everyone together again for the first time since Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. There are probably a wide range of views in wider society on how this Covid Pandemic has been managed and the measures that have been implemented. Undoubtedly everybody will probably have had very different “Lockdown Experiences” possibly ranging from inconvenience to significant loss. As School Principal my ultimate objective has been to once again see our children in their classrooms in Harding Memorial Primary School experiencing Face to Face Teaching. This has happened today and I would encourage every person that comes through our gates each day to do all they can to help keep our school the safe place that it has been throughout the last year.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent efforts of School Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff in providing Key Worker and Vulnerable Child Care for approximately 20% of the School Population since the start of 2021. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone Pupils, Parents and Staff for all the hard work that has taken place with Remote Learning, As this latest period of “Remote Learning” has finished Harding Memorial will once again self-evaluate – to celebrate what we do well and consider how we can improve in the future for both Pupil and Parents and Staff.

Hopefully the transition back into Face to Face Teaching will be as smooth for all our P4 – P7 children this week as it has been previously for our P1 – P3 pupils over the last fortnight. However, Parents may experience a greater level of anxiety and tiredness with their children than in September. To that end, Homework will be minimal this week and activities in class will focus on wellbeing, re- establishing friendships, connections and routines.

### Arrival and Collection

All Parent/Guardians are asked to maintain social distance at all times outside School. Please collect your children promptly and please do not gather the road outside school in accordance with public health guidance. The wearing of face masks around the school entrance and exit areas is encouraged by the Department of Education and whilst this will not be enforced, parental co-operation with these organisational arrangements would be very appreciated.

<b>P2</b> pupils will start at 8.45am <b>P2</b> pupils will stop at 1.50pm <b>P1</b> pupils will start at 9.00am <b>P1</b> pupils will start at 2.00pm	<b>P4</b> pupils will start at 8.45am <b>P4</b> pupils will stop at 2.50pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 2.00pm on a Wednesday <b>P3</b> pupils start at 8.55am and <b>P3</b> pupils stop at 1.50pm	<b>P7</b> pupils start at 8.45am and <b>P7</b> pupils will stop at 3.00pm <b>P6</b> pupils start at 8.50am and <b>P6</b> pupils will stop at 2.55pm <b>P5</b> pupils start at 8.55am and <b>P5</b> pupils stop at 2.50pm
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## COVID REMINDER

While we are encouraged and delighted that infection rates are down and vaccinations are progressing well, it is important, after coming so far, that we do not let our guard down and continue to take all advised precautions. The children will continue to wash hands regularly throughout the day and enhanced cleaning continues to be built into our daily routine.

*Please do not send your children to 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 correct contact information.**

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

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

### 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.

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.

➤ **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](mailto:info@hardingmemorial.belfast.ni.sch.uk)**

**Rock Your Socks Day**  
**Harding Memorial P.S.**  
**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021**



Harding Memorial Primary School is celebrating World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021. WDSD is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. We hope that Primary 1 – Primary 7 Pupils will help celebrate with us in School [World Down Syndrome Day](#) by choosing some socks that are going to get noticed - they might be mismatched socks or your craziest and most colourful socks, whatever takes your fancy ! The #LotsOfSocks campaign exists to raise awareness of Down Syndrome.

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>**



- **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](mailto: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 Harding Memorial Primary School Development Proposal 657**