

# Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to what will undoubtedly be a very busy half term. We hope that everyone had a good break over the Halloween Vacation Period. We really appreciated the excellent Home/School support demonstrated by Parent/Guardians during the first half term. We would like to thank you all in advance again for your continued support during the run up to Christmas. Parent/Guardian support with regards to attendance, punctuality and ensuring that our children adhere to uniform, hair and jewellery school guidelines make a very positive contribution to school life. Parental involvement is encouraged at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School. If you have a query or problem, in which you feel that School can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. Whilst Class Teachers may be on occasions available at the start or end of the school day to speak briefly to Parent/Guardians, **we would request that you telephone the School Office or report first to Mr Cumper or Mrs Baird to ensure that the Class Teacher is available to speak to you.** Our aim is to ensure that your child fulfils their potential and develops in a happy, confident and successful manner. In order to further develop the Home/School relationship at HMIPS we would hope that all Parent/Guardians will continue to:

✓ **Inform school of any changes at home which might affect your child's attitude/behaviour at school. e.g. family illness, bereavement etc.**

It is Harding Memorial policy that discipline should be based on promoting good behaviour as well as addressing unacceptable behaviour, with the underlying emphasis on respect for self, for other pupils and for adults. We aim to develop a caring, happy and disciplined environment that will be conducive to learning. When children behave in an unacceptable manner a clearly graded procedure is followed and, where serious misconduct is concerned, Parent/Guardians will be involved either by receiving a written report from school or by being invited to come to discuss the matter with either the Class Teacher or Senior School Management.

## School Cloud Booking Procedures and P1 – P6 Parent/Guardian & Class Teacher Interviews

The Primary 1 – Primary 6 Parent Teacher Consultations that will take place during the week commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 are intended to provide an opportunity for you to be informed about your child's progress and performance in school and how you can assist your child in his or her learning. It should also give you an important opportunity to let the class teacher know of factors that may be affecting your child or concerns you may have. We hope that all Parent/Guardians will be able to avail of this opportunity to communicate with their child's class teacher, especially those Parent/Guardians who had been unable to attend their child's Parent Curriculum Zoom Meetings earlier in September 2024. **Please note that Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School will close all week for all P1 – P7 Pupils at 1.00pm during the week starting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Please remember to book your slot via School Cloud.** If you require any assistance with this process - please do not hesitate to contact school - and we will be happy to assist you with your booking.

➤ **The link for bookings is <https://hardingmemorial.schoolcloud.co.uk/> and this will go live on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00pm**



### Department of Education: School Attendance Matters – A Parent’s Guide

In Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School we believe that it is vitally important that Home and School work together to help children obtain a high percentage of school attendance. Parent/Guardians are encouraged to work in partnership with Harding Memorial, notifying us of the reason for any of their child’s absences and highlighting any areas of concern they may have so they can be addressed promptly. Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School has a link Education and Welfare Officer (EWO) employed by the Education Authority whose aim is to reduce unnecessary absences from school by offering support and help to pupils, parents and schools. A school will normally make a referral to Education Welfare Service when a pupil’s attendance is a cause for concern or when attendance drops below 85%. The Department of Education has produced a leaflet called “School Attendance Matters - A Parent's Guide” which is available via the following web link and has also been attached with this email for parental information:

[www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-attendance-matters-parents-guide](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-attendance-matters-parents-guide)

In particular we would like to make parents aware of the following information: **“For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that’s nearly 4 school weeks.”** If any Parent/Guardian has any queries about the procedures relating to school absence, please contact the School Principal at your earliest convenience.

### Positive Behaviour at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School

We would like to congratulate all those children from P1 to P7 who were winners of the Harding Hero Award for Friendship in our First Half Term. The “*Harding Hero*” Scheme is used to reinforce and promote Positive Behaviour amongst all the pupils at our school. The aim of this scheme is to create an atmosphere in which the pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of self-esteem and an awareness of the needs of others. The new theme for the Harding Hero Scheme this Half Term will be “*Honesty*” e.g. being truthful to others, returning things that belong to other people, being someone people can trust and showing honesty with your work. We hope that all parent/guardians will assist us in the project by reinforcing the importance of children demonstrating “*Honesty*” both inside and outside out of School.

### After School Clubs – Term 1

As we come to the end of the First Term School After School Club Programme we would like to congratulate our Pupils on their excellent behaviour and attendance and thank the organising staff for all their continued hard work in this important area of school life. We are planning to continue with our comprehensive After Schools Programme in Term 2 and additional information about enrolling your child for these activities will be distributed to Parent/Guardians in due course. It has been great to see so many children staying behind at the end of the school day, enjoying different experiences with their friends. We would hope that all Parent/Guardians would be aware of the necessity to be “punctual” for Pick Up Times at All After School Clubs but especially for those Pupils in Primary 2 & Primary 3 as the coaches need to take the 3.00pm – 4.00pm for older pupils.



We are pleased to inform parents that Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School will be participating in the Anti Bullying Alliance (A.B.A.) Anti-Bullying Week from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024. ABA are official organisers of Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Anti-Bullying Week 2024 will take place from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, with the theme: Choose Respect. **Odd Socks Day is taking place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.** The theme of Choose Respect has come about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. Following the success of the campaign in 2023 – when 80% of schools marked the week, reaching over 7.5 million children and young people – this year, we’ll empower children and young people to choose respect. Bullying can be verbal, physical, online or in-person and can have a significant impact on a child’s life well into adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone, where everyone is heard. Because together, we can end bullying. At Harding Memorial we believe that good behaviour is necessary for Effective Teaching and Learning to take place and an outcome of education which society expects. All our pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 are expected to behave in a responsible manner both to themselves, to others and to their environment, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people at all times. We encourage everyone connected to our school – Pupil, Parent, Staff Colleague or Friend of our School – to remember our well established school motto – *“Everyone Is Important In Our School”*.



As part of Anti-Bullying Week 2024, Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School is excited to be participating in **Odd Socks Day on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. Odd Socks Day should be an opportunity to encourage our school pupils to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or for parents to buy expensive items. **We would simply like for all P1 – P7 children to wear Odd Socks to School on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School**  
**Prospective Primary 1 Open Evening**  
**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November from 6.00pm – 7.00pm**



We would be very much obliged if you could tell family, friends and neighbours about our **Prospective Primary 1 Open Evening to be held in Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November from 6.00pm – 7.00pm**. They would be made most welcome. If you know of someone who has a child who will be starting Primary 1 in September 2025 please inform them about this opportunity to learn more about the ethos, atmosphere and environment within Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School.



**General Information**

It is clear that the weather is getting colder and wetter. This means that all children must come to school dressed appropriately for the weather. Warm coats should be worn even if children come by car as it is very beneficial for children that they get exercise outdoors at break and lunch time if at all possible. Please ensure all children have access to a coat in school.

- ✓ **We would appreciate if all clothing items have a name to identify them and that your child knows where the name label identification is to be found.**



We are pleased to confirm that Poppies are now on sale in Harding Memorial Integrated P.S. **There are also a limited number of Poppy Appeal items for sale** which are listed here. **They will be distributed on a First Come & First Served basis.** Poppy donation money should be sent in with each child to be given to their individual class teacher

## Christmas Celebrations

The End of Term “Christmas Performances” have been confirmed for Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils. These annual events prove to be both popular and very well attended with every pupil participating in our Christmas Celebrations. Further organisational details will follow in due course but we would like to share the following advance information with Parent/Guardians:

- ✓ **The Primary 1 & Primary 2 Christmas Show will take place in the School Assembly Hall on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December (P1 Parent/Guardians Invitation Preference) and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December (P2 Parent/Guardians Invitation Preference)**
- ✓ **The Primary 3 & Primary 4 Christmas Show will take place in the School Assembly Hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December (P3 Parent/Guardians Invitation Preference) and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December (P4 Parent/Guardians Invitation Preference)**
- ✓ **The Primary 5, Primary 6 & Primary 7 Christmas Show will take place in the School Assembly Hall on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December (P5/P6 Parent/Guardians Invitation Preference) and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December (P7/P5 Parent/Guardians Invitation Preference)**

## Improving self-esteem Top tips



### Lead by example



Parents' actions give children their strongest guide for their own behaviour, so, try to avoid criticising yourself in front of your children & encourage them to talk to you about feelings

### Praise effort rather than outcomes



If children are to feel good about what they are doing they need to be able to recognise that the effort they put in is equally as valuable as the outcome

### Give children individual attention



Show affection & interest in them as individuals. When children feel that their parents notice them it helps them develop positive self-belief that they are important individually

### It's OK to make mistakes



Reassure your child that it is ok to make mistakes. Learning from mistakes enables us all to recognise what to do differently the next time

### Acknowledge success

Praise your child's achievements and tell them you are proud of them. Don't spend time focusing on areas where they haven't done so well and encourage them to keep doing what they can do well



### Discover and develop social skills and talents




It's important that you encourage your child to engage with others and take part in activities to develop new interests and stretch their ability

As we come into Winter, there tends to be more health-related concerns for Parent/Guardians. The PHA has provided this helpful guide for parents in relation to a number of common childhood illnesses etc:

**HSC Public Health Agency**

# Do I need to keep my child off school?

<b>Chicken Pox</b> At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Diarrhea &amp;/or Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Respiratory Illness</b> (e.g colds & flu) Can return when no longer have a high temperature and well enough	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	
<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay off if well enough, but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Impetigo</b> Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>German Measles (Rubella)</b> 5 days from onset of rash
<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Scabies</b> Until after first treatment	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Tonsillitis</b> Can return when no longer have a temperature and well enough, school or nursery should be informed	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Use this guide to find out when they should stay off, and when they can go back if they are well enough to do so.

### Your Child's Online World

We would like to make all school Parent/Guardians aware about the following source of information:

[www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety)

This website offers some simple guidance about the risks your child might face online, some advice about what you can do to keep them safe, and where you can go for more help and support. School would recommend a key message from the NSPCC about the importance of all adults being aware of what their primary school age child/children is/are "seeing and doing online" and to make sure that they do not see or do anything that is not age appropriate.

### Sporting Achievement at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School

Our School Football Team has now qualified for the semi-final stage of the BPSFA Bryson Cup School 7 A Side Cup where they will be playing Inchmarlo Prep School. The School Football team has also qualified for the second round of the Edco 9-a-side cup competition after narrowly defeating Cairnshill Integrated Primary School. Congratulations to all those children who have been given the opportunity to represent our school team on their excellent team commitment and sporting spirit. Many thanks to Cregagh Wanderers Football Club and Miss Hall and Mr Heatley for their continuing support with this important extra-curricular aspect of our School.