

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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Monday 4th October 2021

Dear Primary 1 to Primary 7 Parent/Guardians

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School would wish to express our thanks to all our Parent/Guardians for the helpful and co-operative start their children have made to the new school year. The pupils look very smart in their school uniforms and we appreciate the high standard that has been set since the start of the new school year. **We especially appreciate the effort by Parent/Guardians to ensure that their children are punctual at the start of the school day which allows staff and children to settle quickly and establishes a strong working atmosphere in school.** We are once again hugely encouraged that in Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School we have such dedicated Parent/Guardians who are so highly motivated to help their children do their best and gain the most from school life. As we go further into the Autumn months and then into Winter, your continued parental cooperation and support will be crucial to our ongoing success. The first month of our new school year has been completed but we are still dealing with continued *“Positive Covid 19 Cases within our School Community”*. As is now expected in line with the current educational and health guidance, our school has received zero contact from the PHA about these latest case. However, we will continue to notify Parent/Guardians who have children in a class that we have been informed has had a positive Covid 19 Test Result by issuing the recommended “PHA Warn and Inform Letter”. We would continue to wish all members of our School Community affected by a positive Covid result both a speedy and healthy recovery. Thank you to everyone for your continued support to our school. Whilst we are taking nothing for granted, the start of school has been successful and it is important to be thankful for each and every day that we have protected health and uninterrupted schooling for the HMIPS Community.

P1 – P7 School Curriculum Zoom Meetings & Parent Teacher Interviews

We would like to express our gratitude to those parents who were able to attend our Primary 1 – Primary 7 Parent Zoom Curriculum Meetings in September. We felt that these meetings were very beneficial for both Parents and Teaching Staff as such “Face to Face Interaction” helps to improve the communication between Home and School which accordingly can only be of benefit to every child at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School. I would particularly like to thank our P1 – P7 Teachers for being able to facilitate these virtual meetings outside of their normal working school day. The continued dedication and commitment of all the Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff in our school is a source of inspiration to myself as Principal. We will be e mailing copies of the Curriculum Presentations and Year Group Homework Booklets to individual parents in due course.

In order to build upon this very important relationship we would like to give Primary 1 Parent/Guardians advance notice of the Primary 1 Parent Teacher Telephone Consultation that will take place on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October 2021. Further information about this process will be sent home with your child and communicated via Seesaw in due course.

The Primary 2 – Primary 6 Parent Teacher Consultations that will take place shortly after the Half Term Vacation Period in early November 2021. **These Telephone Parental Teacher Interviews** 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 Parents will be able to avail of this opportunity to communicate with their child's class teacher, especially those parents who had been unable to attend their child's "Start of the New Year" Parent Curriculum Zoom Meetings in September 2021.

School Security

We are very keen to promote a Healthy Lifestyle amongst our pupils and encourage children walking cycling or scooting to School. However, we would strongly encourage all Parent/Guardians to ensure that their child's bicycle or scooter is locked in place during the school day. Whilst School will prioritise the safety and security of our pupils within the school building, we are aware that there are certain vulnerabilities with items left outside of school e.g. bicycles and scooters. In addition, we strongly recommend that all children wear cycle helmets.

Parents and School in Partnership

- ✓ In Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School we request that all pupil equipment and clothing should be clearly labelled. We would encourage parents to recheck their child's school uniform and if necessary re-mark any unidentified items. If anything is misplaced by your child at school, please make sure your child has told their Class Teacher or the School Building Supervisor, Mrs Lyttle, and we will then attempt to resolve the situation.
- ✓ We would request that all Parent/Guardians ensure that the contact details that parents provide as part of the school annual data collection are accurate. Any changes to pupil addresses and emergency contact numbers must be supplied via email to the school office. Failure to do so can cause significant problems in an emergency situation. In particular, we would urgently request that all parents should ensure that all their mobile contact phone numbers are accurate and please ensure that your mobile phone has an answer machine message facility in order for school to make contact.
- ✓ We would request that all pupils from P1 to P7 have access to a suitable outdoor coat (with hood) in school, especially if they have travelled to school by car. We would prefer for our pupils not to use umbrellas in the school playground due to the possibility of a child being accidently hurt by a child losing control of their umbrella. It may be particularly useful for older pupils to leave an "emergency coat" in school.
- ✓ At Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School we acknowledge that the whole area of "*Child Protection*" is a sensitive and difficult issue. The relationships which School Staff have with children and parents are often based on trust and confidentiality. Such relationships are acknowledged as underpinning the secure, caring environment for growth and learning which schools seek to provide for their pupils. However, all individuals connected to our School must recognise that, in order to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation, a proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families.
- ❖ **As part of the Home/School partnership all Stakeholders are reminded that it is accepted school policy that any Harding Memorial Pupil (whilst they are in the vicinity of the school grounds) should not be approached by any adult other than their own Parent/Guardian or a member of Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School Staff.**
- ❖ **If you have any questions about any aspect of Child Protection please speak to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mr Cumper) or Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs Baird)**

Nut Free School

In our school we have a number of children who have an allergy to **all nuts/nut products**. Any contact with nuts/nut products will cause an anaphylactic attack in these children. Therefore, we ask you to exclude nuts/nut products from your child's mid-morning snack and packed lunch. This exclusion also applies to items sent to the classrooms for science or 'interest table' collections. **Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School** is a **NUT FREE ZONE**. Please contact the School Principal if you require further clarification of this issue. We thank all parents in advance for their anticipated co-operation in this very important matter.

Healthy Lifestyles at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School

We encourage the pupils to choose healthy options with regard to their diet and lifestyle. We actively encourage all children to drink milk or water in school and to bring in a healthy snack for break. Children are allowed to have access to water in class. **We would request that all water bottles are clearly labelled to avoid confusion in class.** Recent Educational research has indicated that a pupil's concentration in class is enhanced by proper diet and nutrition. We would therefore ask you to be ever mindful of this when preparing lunch breaks or snacks for your child to eat in school.

Positive Behaviour Scheme - Harding Hero for Kindness

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. At the end of each behaviour theme period a pupil from P1 to P7 will receive a behaviour certificate which will be displayed on the Harding Hero Noticeboard. The theme for the current Harding Hero Scheme is "*Kindness*" e.g. *being helpful, being considerate, doing the right thing and being gentle to each other*. We hope that all parents will assist us in the project by reinforcing the importance of children demonstrating "**Kindness**" both inside and outside of school. We would like to give all Parents and Pupils advance notice that World Kindness Day will take place on 13th November 2021. We intending for P1 – P7 pupils to be given the opportunity to participate in a Non Uniform Fundraising Charity Day on in School Friday 12th November 2021 in support of the Northern Ireland Hospice. Additional details about this event will be sent home to parents in advance of this date.

SCHOOL EMERGENCY CLOSURE INFORMATION

Harding Memorial would like to remind all parent/guardians of our organisational arrangements for Emergency School Closure Situations. In the case of extreme weather conditions, any decision whether or not to close the school will be taken as early as possible. The Principal will consult with the Building Supervisor and make a decision about whether School will be able to remain open. In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow the prime concern of Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School must always be the safety of the pupils and staff.

- **We have a system in school to enable us to Text and E Mail Parents to inform them if school is closed for any emergency situation.**

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School has contingency arrangements in place if it became necessary to move the children out of the School Building. In the event of a decision being taken to close school a text message announcing this decision will be sent to the mobile phone number of the first contact on our list of contacts, as completed by parents at the start of the school term.

Please Leave All Toys At Home

We would seek to remind parents of our established school policy which is “Please No Toys In School Except For Show and Tell”. Each teacher will inform their class of their Show and Tell Day. The reason for this policy is that we are worried that a child’s toy may get misplaced or damaged. We would formally request that **all toys are left at home**, including stuffed animals as when children bring in toys from home, they become distracted and the other children do as well. This toy description would include a wide range of items such as Collecting Card Games, Miniature Action Figures, Dolls and Lego etc.

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.
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IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

We continue to have a significant number of inquiries from parents as to whether a child should attend school or not with cold symptoms. The Guidance from the Department of Education advises schools and parents to focus on the ‘**Big Three**’ symptoms of Covid 19, which we all know so well now – A new, continuous cough, raised temperature and loss of taste and/or smell. However, it is important that we do not conflate every runny nose, sore throat, headache, blocked nose and sneeze etc. with Covid 19. In situations where you suspect your child may simply have a cold, a common sense approach is advised – keep them from school for a day or two, observe and see how things progress and go from there. If, at that point, one or all of the ‘Big Three’ symptoms develop or worsen, then you should probably seek further advice from your child’s doctor or PHA.

Annual Flu Vaccination

Professor Sir Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer, has written to all Schools regarding preparations for this year’s influenza season. Professor McBride’s letter highlights the importance of reducing the risk of the concomitant circulation of flu and Covid-19 during the autumn and winter. The Department of Health target is to have an 80% uptake in flu vaccination within primary schools, special schools and post primary schools which can only be achieved with the continued goodwill and assistance of Schools and Parent/Guardians. In particular, he has stated that “*given that Covid-19 is still with us, I wanted to re-emphasize the particular importance this year of the school annual flu vaccination programme in helping to reduce the risk of concomitant circulation of flu and Covid-19 during autumn and winter.*” As you may know, every year in the autumn, all children are offered the annual flu vaccination, administered by the school health team via a nasal spray. Given the times that we are in with Covid19, the Department of Health is encouraging as large an uptake of the vaccination as possible. **The Flu vaccination programme will take place in Harding Memorial IPS on Monday 6th December 2021.**



Bounce Back

"Do you find yourself in cycles of nagging and bickering with partners and children? Are you fed up 'fighting fires' at home every day?"

If so then join us as we look at real ways to manage day to day challenges, cope with bumps along the way and all the while keeping our cool.

FREE parent and carer workshops via zoom

6 sessions 8pm-9pm starting Mon 4th Oct or Thurs 4th Nov 2021

Call us on
0808 8020 400
to learn more and book your place

Mon-Thurs 9am-9pm

Friday 9am-5pm

Saturday 9am-1pm

Supported by the Public Health Agency through the Clear Project





HARDING MEMORIAL INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Updated Holiday List For The Academic Year = 2021/2022

Please note that Family holidays cannot be deemed to be an agreed, authorised absence except in very exceptional circumstances: (DE Circular 2006/14)

- "A family holiday is judged to be important to the wellbeing and cohesion of the family, following serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic events."

Half Term Holiday

School is closed from Monday 25th October 2021 – Friday 29th October 2021

✓ **Christmas Holiday**

School is closed from Wednesday 22nd December 2021 – Monday 3rd January 2022

➤ **School Development Day – Tuesday 4th January 2022 (**

Harding Memorial Primary School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this date

✓ **Spring Term**

School starts on Wednesday 5th January 2022

➤ **School Development Day - Wednesday 16th February 2022**

Harding Memorial Primary School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this date

✓ **Spring Half Term Holiday**

School is closed on Thursday 17th February 2022 and Friday 18th February 2022

✓ **St Patrick's Day**

School is closed on Thursday 17th March 2022

✓ **Easter Holiday**

School is closed from Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April 2022

✓ **Summer Term**

Summer term starts on Monday 25th April 2022

✓ **May Day Holiday**

School is closed on Monday 2nd May 2022

✓ **Summer Half Term Holiday**

School is closed on Thursday 2nd June and Friday 3rd June 2022

➤ **School Development Day – Monday 6th June 2022**

Harding Memorial Primary School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this date

➤ **School Development Day – Monday 20th June 2022**

Harding Memorial Primary School will be closed for all Pupils for Staff Training on this date

End of Summer Term – The last day of the Summer Term is Thursday 30th June 2022