

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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Dear Parent/Guardian

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School traditionally participates in **Safer Internet Day** which will take place this year on **Tuesday 6th February 2024**. This year celebrations and learning will be based around the theme: **"Inspiring change ? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online"**

Clearly the Internet is a unique and exciting resource that can bring the world into the classroom by giving children access to a global network of educational resources. Indeed, the Internet has been described as being like a "vast city" with an exciting variety of places to visit; with entertainment areas, educational areas and people to meet. **But there are undoubtedly areas that we certainly would not want Primary School Aged Children to visit.**

The digital world of social media is a fast changing landscape with new applications and social networks multiplying. As a parent, you will want to ensure that your child is safe and that you are well enough informed to support their use of any digital appliances. Therefore, we felt it would be very beneficial for all of our children to follow these "SMART TIPS"

➤ *SMART Tips from: – Helping your parents be cool about the Internet, produced by: Northern Area Child Protection Committees*

S

Secret - Always keep your name, address, mobile phone number and password private – it's like giving out the keys to your home!

M

Meeting someone you have contacted in cyberspace can be dangerous. You **must only do so with your parent's/carer's permission**, and then **only when they can be present.**

A

Accepting e-mails or opening files from people you don't really know or trust can get you into trouble – they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

R

Reliable- Someone on-line may be lying and not be who they say they are. Stick to the public areas in chat rooms and if you feel uncomfortable, simply get out of there!

T

Tell your parent or carer if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried.

Facebook and Other Social Networking Sites Guidance

➤ Why have we included this information in this letter ?

Although the terms and conditions of using Facebook state that the **user must be 13 years or over**, we know that there are some children within Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School who are using Facebook and other such social media networking sites. However, if a child at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School has a Facebook Account then they have already **broken the terms of the site** as they must have uploaded false information about their age. At Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School **we do not condone the use of Facebook** nor are we encouraging it or the use of any other social networking site. **In School all social networking sites are automatically blocked for pupil use by our school internet filters.** As part of the School Pastoral Care policy we will continue to inform parents of any issues that we become aware of in school with regard to the inappropriate use of social networking sites.

➤ What can parents do to help?

Firstly, Primary-Age children should not be on these sites.

However if you wish for your child/children to use this technology we **would strongly urge every parent/guardian to talk to their child/children about their use of the internet.**

For example, please check with your child/children:

- ❖ What are they posting online?
- ❖ Who can see it?
- ❖ Are they sharing their age, address, e-mail or phone number on Facebook?
- ❖ Are they inappropriately asking to become friends with teachers and other staff members? We as a school do not permit any form of ICT or modern communication technologies (e-mail, texting, Facebooking or the use of any other social networking site) to be used as a means of communication about school matters between staff and pupils or staff and parents.
- ❖ For primary aged children it is more appropriate to use a cartoon photo as their personal photo than an actual photo
- ❖ It is important to help your child to understand that they should not post any photo they would not wish their mum, dad or granny to see. They should also understand that even if they are careful about privacy settings – their electronic ‘friends’ might not be (and that means that others can ‘take’ or ‘harvest’ photos from their web space if they are not stored privately).

A Final Point To Remember:

Many people do share information online without thinking about the possible consequences! Once information is shared online, it is very hard (often impossible) to remove. The following link may also be helpful in deciding how to pitch your safe talk with your child(ren):

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Gaming is extremely popular with children and young people. It can be difficult to keep up with the latest games and how they work. Here we take a look at key safety concerns and how you can support happier, safer gaming for your child.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming



As many of you may be aware, the incidences of dog fouling on the pavement outside the main entrance to our School continues to cause some concern. We have been in contact with the appropriate agencies and would like to share additional information with School Stakeholders. Belfast City Council will soon commence a pilot to provide specific dog waste bins in each of the four quadrants of the city, **in a hope that these bins along key routes will help to send a message and challenge the mindset of dog walkers who do not clean up after their dog.** This pilot will rely heavily on data to strategically place bins in areas where dog fouling is persistent. As such I would request your support with this pilot in specifying areas around school that are problematic. This can be done anonymously: <https://online.belfastcity.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling/default.aspx> or by telephone at 02890270431 or by emailing dogwardens@belfastcity.gov.uk We would like to thank all Parent/Guardians for their co-operation and support with this challenging issue.

Primary 7 Participation in the Peace Proms at the SSE Arena

We are pleased to inform Parent/Guardians that our Primary 7 Pupils have been given the wonderful opportunity to participate in the “**Peace Proms**” Project at the SSE Arena on Sunday 25th February 2024. The Peace Proms is a music education resource for Primary Schools which culminates in a large-scale performance for choirs and orchestra at iconic venues throughout the USA Ireland and Northern Ireland. The programme promotes “peace through music” and engages almost 35,000 children from 600 schools giving them the opportunity to sing in a large-scale production with a choir of up to 3,000 and a full symphony youth orchestra. We are confident that our evening performance at the SEE Arena will be an inspirational and thrilling experience for Choirs, Teachers, Parents and Audiences alike. The Peace Proms 2024 Concert will be conducted by internationally acclaimed Maestro Greg Beardsell and the programme promises to be an epic and thrilling celebration of youth, live music, and sheer talent with everything from rocking vocal and violin solos and majestic Bagpipe and Uilleann pipe melodies to powerful pop and peace anthems. The Peace Proms 2024 Concert is intended to bring a shared love for music and passion for peace to ever-greater numbers of children, schools, communities and live audiences throughout the world. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Miss Cullen for her professional expertise in arranging for Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School to participate in this exciting and innovative educational event.

School Football Team

We are pleased to inform our Parent/Guardians that the HMIPS Football Team has qualified for the Finals of the Belfast Primary Schools 5 A Side Indoor Football Tournament at the Shankill Leisure Centre that will take place on Tuesday 6th February 2024. We also entered a Football Team into the EDCO Under 10 Cup. Although we were defeated by a very talented opposition team, all our footballers gave 100% and reflected the adage – “*That is it not important who wins or loses – it is how we play the game*”. Many thanks to Mr Heatley and Kim and Timmy from Cregagh Wanderers Football Club for their excellent coaching. We continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm, dedication and sporting ability demonstrated by the boys and girls in our school.

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
	Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	

➤ **The instruction in cases of vomiting and/or diarrhoea is that your child should NOT return to school until 48 hours after the last symptom, even if they feel fine sooner than 48 hours.**

We have previously unfortunately had situations where Parent/Guardians did not, regrettably, follow this instruction, leading to large outbreaks in individual classes. **If your child is sent to school and it becomes clear to School Staff that they are still demonstrating vomiting or diarrhoea symptoms, you will be requested to collect them from school.** For the good of everyone in our school community, please adhere to these instructions. We would like to thank all Parent/Guardians in advance for their support of School in this matter.

Yours sincerely
Mr Stephen Cumper
Principal