

# Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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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.

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 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The Anti Bullying Alliance are now the official organisers of Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2023 is: **"Make A Noise About Bullying"**. 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 Integrated Primary School 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 2022, Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School is excited to be participating in **Odd Socks Day on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. 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 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

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 develop further the Home/School relationship we would hope that Parent/Guardians will continue to:

- ✓ **Ensure regular attendance and to make sure that their children are not regularly “Late for School”**
- ✓ **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 Integrated Primary School 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.

### **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 of School.

**Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School  
Prospective Primary 1 Open Evening  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November from 5.00pm – 6.00pm**



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 Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November from 5.00pm – 6.00pm**. They would be made most welcome. If you know of someone who has a child who will be starting Primary 1 in September 2024 please inform them about this opportunity to learn more about the ethos, atmosphere and environment within Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School.

### **After School Extra-Curricular Clubs**

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.

### 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

Both the School Boys and Girls Football Team have qualified for the semi-final stage of the respective 7 A Side Football Cup Competitions and these matches will take place in November 2023. Congratulations all those children who have given the opportunity to represent our school team on their excellent team commitment and sporting spirit.

### 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.



Primary 1, Primary 2, Primary 3, Primary 4  
Primary 5 and Primary 6 Parent Teacher  
Telephone Interviews will take place from the  
week starting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022.  
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.

These Parent/Guardian & Teacher Conversations 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 will 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 "Start of the New Year" Parent Curriculum Zoom Meetings in September 2023.

**Please note that Harding Memorial Integrated P.S. will close all week for all P1 – P7 Pupils at 1.00pm during the week starting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



**As we come into Winter, there tends to be more health-related concerns for parents. 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>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>German Measles (Rubella)</b> 5 days from onset of rash	
<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.

A new children's symptom checker has been launched in Northern Ireland to help provide parents with advice while alleviating pressures on emergency departments. The online tool launched by the Belfast Trust will be able to provide parents trusted advice to help them make informed decisions about their children's health. Developed by the Trust's Paediatric Emergency and General Paediatric Team, in consultation with Alder Hey Hospital and the Healthier Together Programme, the symptom checker details the regular symptoms seen in the Emergency Department at Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. The online platform is easy to use, informative and provides high quality advice for parents or guardians to consider when their child becomes unwell. This ranges from coughs and colds through to burns and symptoms that are much more serious. The platform will help parents ensure their child receives the most appropriate care in the right place, at the right time, from the most appropriate team. It uses a traffic light system to help parents know which type of treatment their child needs.

- ❖ **Red symptoms mean you should attend your nearest emergency department immediately or ring an ambulance**
- ❖ **Amber symptoms are less urgent, but it's still vitally important treatment is sought on the same day, for example through your GP**
- ❖ **Green symptoms only, with no amber or red features, are less concerning situations.**

The online tool can be found at the following link: Children's symptom checker | Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (hscni.net)

<https://belfasttrust.hscni.net/hospitals/childrens/childrens-symptom-checker/>



## There will be NO SCHOOL FUND Request this School Year

At this time of the year we normally invite each School Family to make a voluntary contribution towards the School Fund. This fund is traditionally used for providing the “extra” facilities and activities from which all our pupils benefit as these costs are not covered by the school budget. However in light of the current financial challenges for the Harding Memorial local community, we have decided not to ask for School Fund for the current 2023/2024 School Year.



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 at the bottom of this letter.

**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

## School Meals

We would like to thank you for your co-operation in the first term in using the SchoolMoney booking system and booking within the required timeframe. It has made the administration process using this outside agency much more efficient and is much appreciated. There are two ways to access this system – download the Eduspot (Teachers2parents) app from your app store OR visit the website - <https://eduspot.co.uk/> and use the parent login button there. We are aware that there can be the occasional interruption to services like most online facilities, but would encourage you to persist and if one way is having issues, try the other. If you have difficulty accessing the system please see the top tips information letter on our school website, but please remember that if on the rare occasion you are unable to make a booking, for whatever reason, it will be necessary to send a packed lunch with your child.

As more and more school payments and bookings for a variety of trips, clubs etc will be added to this system it is important to keep the school office informed of any changes to your email address and/or mobile telephone number so that you can access SchoolMoney as and when necessary.



## 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 information with Parent/Guardians:

- ✓ **The Primary 1 & Primary 2 Christmas Show will take place in the School Assembly Hall on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November (P1 Parent/Guardians Invitation Preference) and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December (P2 Parent/Guardians Invitation Preference)**
- ✓ **The Primary 3 & Primary 4 Christmas Show will take place in the School Assembly Hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December (P3 Parent/Guardians Invitation Preference) and Wednesday 6<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 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December (P5/P6 Parent/Guardians Invitation Preference) and Wednesday 13<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