

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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Thursday 18th November 2021

Dear Primary 1 to Primary 7 Parent

We have had a very busy first Half Term with some more normality returning to our Pre Covid School Routine. We also have really appreciated the excellent Parental support since the start of the School Year with regards to attendance, punctuality, supervision of homework and ensuring that our children adhere to uniform, hair and jewellery guidelines. These various elements combined together make a positive contribution to your child's educational journey. The most important thing in our school is our children and keeping them safe is our number 1 priority. We need to continue to work together as a School Community to stay safe, stay well and keep the **"virus out of HMIPS"**. As we continue on our journey towards a desired return to the previous Pre Covid School Day to Day Life, we are really thankful for your on-going support to keep our school safe for Pupils, Parents and Staff. School Staff have made provisional plans for our December 2021 Christmas Celebrations with our pupils. However, in light of the continuing public health situation, we are wishing to avoid large gatherings. Unfortunately we will be unable to invite the Parents and Friends of Harding Memorial into our School Assembly Hall to view our Christmas Celebrations. We recognise that this is a disappointing decision but we are currently finalising organisational arrangements which we hope will enable us to share the Christmas Celebrations on the School You-Tube Page. Additional information about this issue will be shared with Parents in due course.

Parent Teacher Interviews

We would like to thank both Teaching Staff and School Parents for their participation in the recent P2 – P6 Parent Teacher Interviews. We hope that you found the time spent sharing information with your child's class teacher both valuable and informative. On your behalf I would like to thank all our Teaching Staff for their continued dedication and commitment that serve all of the pupils so well at Harding Memorial. If you have any follow up questions or queries, please feel free to make an appointment with the office and your child's teacher will be back in touch. There will be another chance to speak to your child's class teacher later in the school year.

Positive Behaviour at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School

The theme of the Northern Ireland 2021 Anti-Bullying week is "One Kind Word." Our pupils have been engaged in activities in class related to this very important issue to help them talk and think about the effect their words can have on others. As part of Anti-Bullying Week in our school we were excited to celebrate Odd Socks Day which was an opportunity to encourage children to express themselves and to celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique. We would like to congratulate all those children from P1 to P7 who were winners of the Harding Hero Award 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. The new theme for the Harding Hero Scheme 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.

Flu and Sickness Advice For Parents/Guardians/Carers With Children At School

Harding Memorial appreciates the ongoing support of Parent/Guardians when addressing the issue of “illness” in our School, especially when pupils are ill prior to the start of the school day. Our experience is that in many such situations, pupils have to be sent home again, so we would encourage a “sick child” to be kept at home. A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and is likely to spread the illness to other children and staff and obviously the school would wish to avoid the spread of illness within the confined community of the classroom. We feel that it may be of particular benefit to share the following medical information below with Parent/Guardians. The symptoms of flu often start suddenly and may include:

- ✓ fever
- ✓ fatigue
- ✓ pains in the limbs or the joints
- ✓ coughing
- ✓ sore throat
- ✓ headache
- ✓ runny nose
- ✓ some people also have vomiting and diarrhoea.

Most people, including children, will recover within a few days. Resting and taking over the counter preparations such as Paracetamol will help. Anyone with flu-like symptoms should stay at home, so as not to infect others, until feeling better. **Please note that Harding Memorial follows the following guidance below on Infection Control and we would urge all Parent/Guardians to be aware of the recommended advice for “School Illnesses” from the Public Health Agency**

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Illness	Isolation Period
Whooping Cough	48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
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
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
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted & healed or 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

HSC Public Health Agency

We understand this year is particularly challenging for our families in maintaining excellent attendance, however we use a particular code on the register for children absent because of COVID meaning we can take this into consideration when monitoring attendance.

- **Lateness is also monitored by the Education Welfare Officer so please endeavour to get your child in to school by their allocated staggered time**

Information for parents and carers



Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19. Please don't send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms such as:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- loss of or change to their sense of taste or smell

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.

Contact tracing and self-isolation procedures have recently changed, so here's what to do in particular cases.

Contact tracing will be done by the Contact Tracing Service at the Public Health Agency (PHA). They will call from the number **028 9536 8888** – save the number in your phone so that you recognise it and please answer if they call.

My child has COVID-19 symptoms

- Book your child a PCR test as soon as possible.
- They should isolate until they get their result. If it is negative they can carry on as normal and return to school as long as they are well (no fever for 48 hours).
- If it is positive they should isolate for 10 days. You will receive further information by text message and a contact tracing call from the PHA.
- You should advise your child's school or nursery that they have tested positive.

You can book a PCR test online via www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling **119** if you can't go online.

Someone in our household is positive

- Everyone in the household should book a PCR test as soon as possible and again for the 8th day after their exposure. Anyone who tests positive should isolate for 10 days.
- Adults who are fully vaccinated do not have to isolate while they're waiting for the results. Adults who are not fully vaccinated should isolate for 10 days regardless of their test result.
- Children aged 5-17 who are not vaccinated should isolate until they get their results. If the result is negative they can come out of isolation and return to school.
- Children under the age of 5 are advised to take a PCR test but they do not have to isolate while waiting for results.



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

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**.

There is so much that we can do online nowadays including playing games, chatting with others, watching TV or sharing our videos/photographs. Being online can be great but it's important that we set boundaries for our children to keep them safe whilst they explore being online, develop their digital resilience and understanding of what to do if anything negative happens when online. So how can we help keep our children safe? We can start by checking age restrictions/ratings. **It's important that we follow these to ensure that what our children are doing or seeing online is appropriate for their age.**

Where can I find age ratings ?

- ✓ **Films:** The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rate films. This page includes a link to a 'Parents' Guide to Age Ratings': <https://www.cbbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>.
- ✓ **Video games:** PEGI provides age classifications for video games. PEGI **considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty**. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration user generated content within games (such as on Roblox) and the chat facilities within games.
- ✓ **Apps:** Check the individual age ratings within the relevant app store. We also recommend that you download any apps and play them yourself to check their suitability.
- ✓ **Social Media networks:** All social media networks have a minimum age rating; they are all at least 13+.

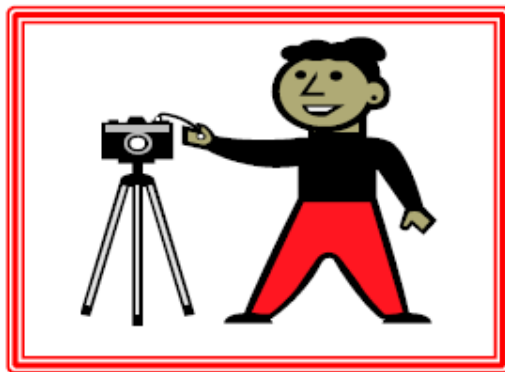
What else can I do ?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child.
- Go online together and let your child show you what they are accessing online.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices, consoles and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing anything unsuitable as well as viewing inappropriate content for example whilst on YouTube.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them about what they see online then they should tell you or another trusted adult.

What if my child has seen something inappropriate ?

There is an article from Thinkuknow explaining what to do and who to contact if you have any concerns.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-to-do-if-your-child-has-seen-something-inappropriate-online>



Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School
Primary 1 – Primary 7 Individual Pupil Photographs

CHANGE OF DATE TO TUESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2021

www.opusmemories.com

As you have been previously notified due to unforeseen circumstances the School Photographer, Opus Digital Ltd, has had to change the date that she will be in school to **Tuesday 23rd November 2021** and the same arrangements will apply as previously advised:

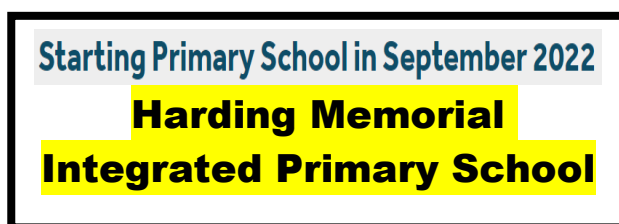
We are also hoping to use these photos to produce a Whole School Photograph Display Board to celebrate our Transformation to HMIPS. It would be intended that this “New School P1 – P7 Picture Board” would be placed alongside the 100th Anniversary 2013 P1 – P7 Picture Board at the back of the School Assembly Hall. We feel that this will be a lovely Historical Artefact.

- All children from P1 – P7 will have their photograph taken in School on Tuesday 23rd November 2021 unless we receive written instruction to the contrary.
- Please note that Opus Digital have asked School to confirm with Parent/Guardians that the School Photographer “*cannot fix a child's hair or tidy them before their picture is taken*”.
- It may be beneficial to send a brush to school with your child on the day that they are having their photograph session
- Opus Digital are currently unable to offer any Pupil Photograph Family Groups due to Covid Infection Control Measures
- ❖ Please be assured that you are under no obligation to purchase your child's photograph which you will be able to view on the Opus Memories website using a unique individual parent code which will be forwarded to you in due course.
- ❖ If parents have any questions or queries about these organisational arrangements, they should contact the School Principal at their earliest possible convenience

We are extremely grateful to our PTFA for all the fundraising they have done over the years. We have benefited from Sports equipment, Library refurbishment, wet weather lunch games to name but a few. During the present Covid situation they have been unable to hold the usual events that would raise much needed funds for our school. However, being the resilient group that they are, they have come up with a super idea to gather some much needed monies to continue their good work within the school. Consequently, they plan to hold a Raffle Fundraiser on Tuesday 30th November with these amazing prizes:

- ❖ **1st Prize** **An overnight stay at Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick**
- ❖ **2nd Prize** **Fruit Hamper courtesy of Bethany Fruit Shop**
- ❖ **3rd Prize** **Candle Creation courtesy of Sarah McFarland, The Candle Rooms**
- ❖ **4th Prize** **Candle courtesy of Sarah McFarland, The Candle Rooms**

Tickets are priced £10 each and the draw will close on Friday 26th November and the Raffle draw will then take place on Tuesday 30th November. **So remember you need to be IN IT TO WIN IT !**



Unfortunately, due to continuing Covid pressures, we will not be able to host an Open Day in the usual format. Similar to last year, it would be our intention to create a video to share with Prospective Parents. Parents with children starting P1 in September 2022 can also phone the school to book an appointment to come and have a tour of the Primary 1 Classroom Area during the month of January 2022 social distancing will apply and only one family per visiting session can be accommodated. **If you know of someone who has a child who will be starting P1 in September 2022, please inform them about this opportunity to learn more about the ethos, atmosphere and environment within Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School.**

After School Clubs

The month of November 2021 has seen the first step in phasing back our comprehensive After Schools Programme, which we hope to expand even further after Christmas. It has been great to see so many children staying behind at the end of the school day, enjoying different experiences with their friends. Don't forget to remind your child each week when they are staying for their club and make sure they know who will be collecting them at either 3.00pm or 4.00pm.

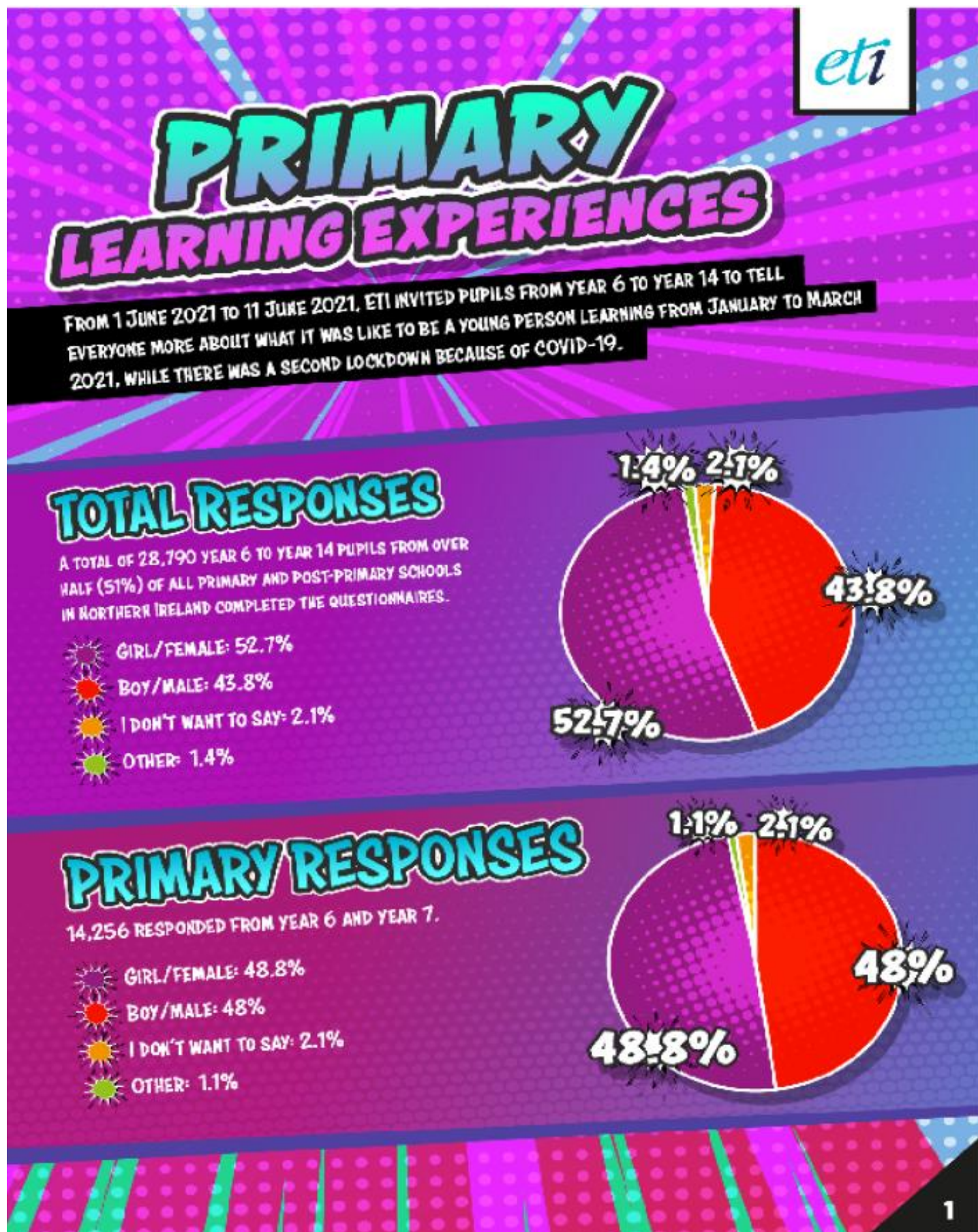
General Information

As we move towards December 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. It can be challenging to identify individual clothing items as a number of our school pupils "wear similar types of clothing".**

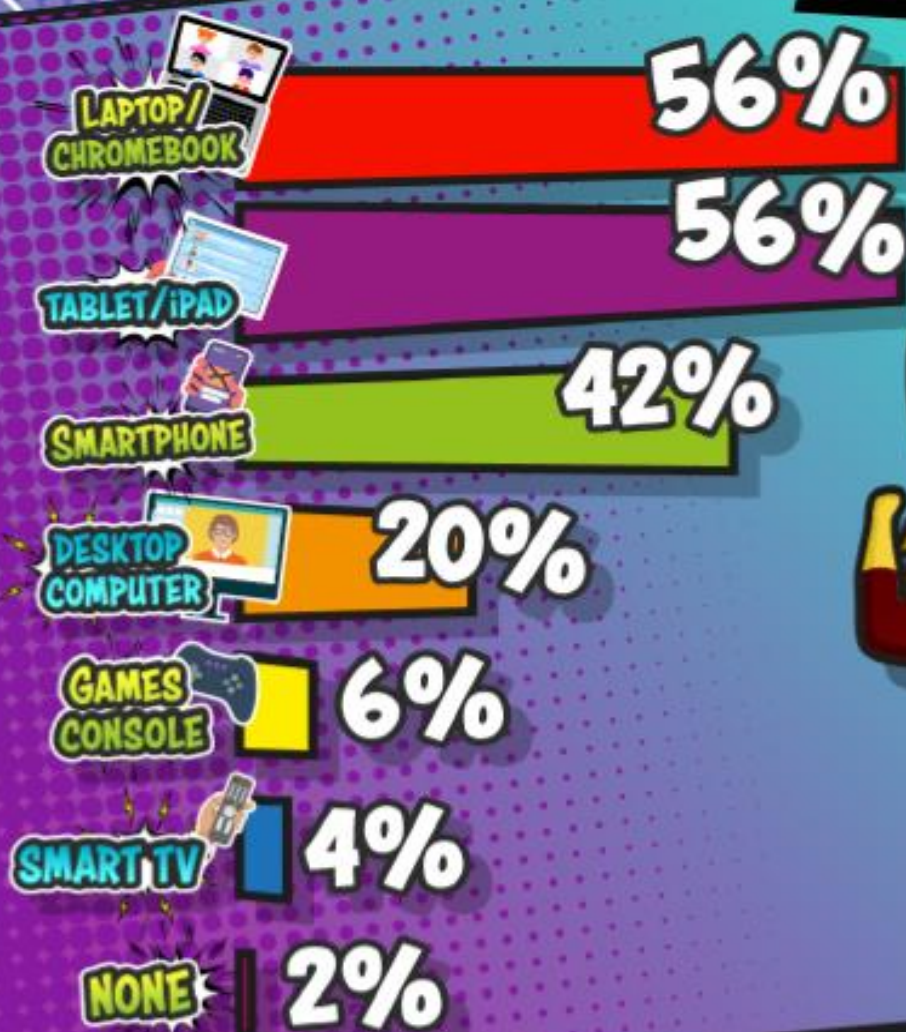
Mr S Cumper
Principal

In the following pages is a summary of the views of the pupils who told the ETI about their learning experiences during lockdown in term two, January to March 2021. Their views are important as they will help all pupils, parents and carers, teachers and everyone who is interested in education understand more clearly what it was like to be a young person learning at this time.



DIGITAL DEVICES USED BY YOU

THE DEVICES MOST OFTEN USED WERE: LAPTOPS OR CHROMEBOOKS; TABLETS OR IPADS; AND SMARTPHONES.



ONLINE LIVE LESSONS

REGISTRATION & RULES

I COULD LOG IN TO MY
ONLINE PLATFORM

92%

I WAS INFORMED ABOUT HOW TO BEHAVE
DURING ONLINE LIVE LESSONS

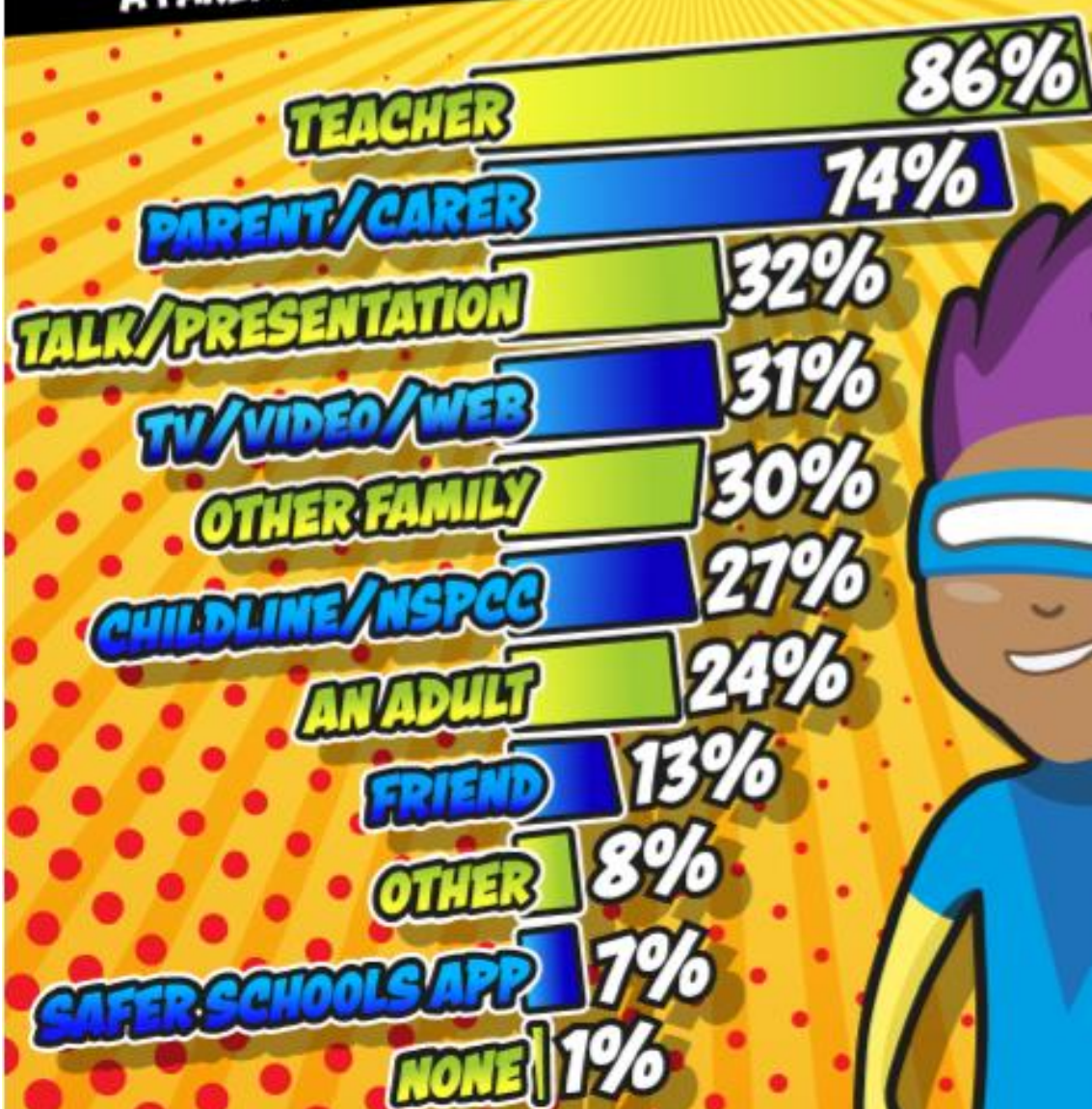
52%

ALMOST ALL OF YOU WERE
ABLE TO REGISTER AND LOG IN
TO THE ONLINE PLATFORMS BY
YOURSELF.



STAYING SAFE ONLINE

MOST OF YOU WERE TAUGHT BY A TEACHER AND/OR
A PARENT OR CARER HOW TO STAY SAFE ONLINE.



YOUR ICT SKILLS

**MOST OF YOU TOLD US THAT YOUR
ICT SKILLS IMPROVED DURING LOCKDOWN.**

**ICT SKILLS
IMPROVED
86%**

**ICT SKILLS DID
NOT IMPROVE
14%**



ASKING FOR HELP

PARENT/CARER

80%

**TEACHER/
CLASSROOM ASSISTANT**

47%

BROTHER/SISTER

33%

NO ONE

4%

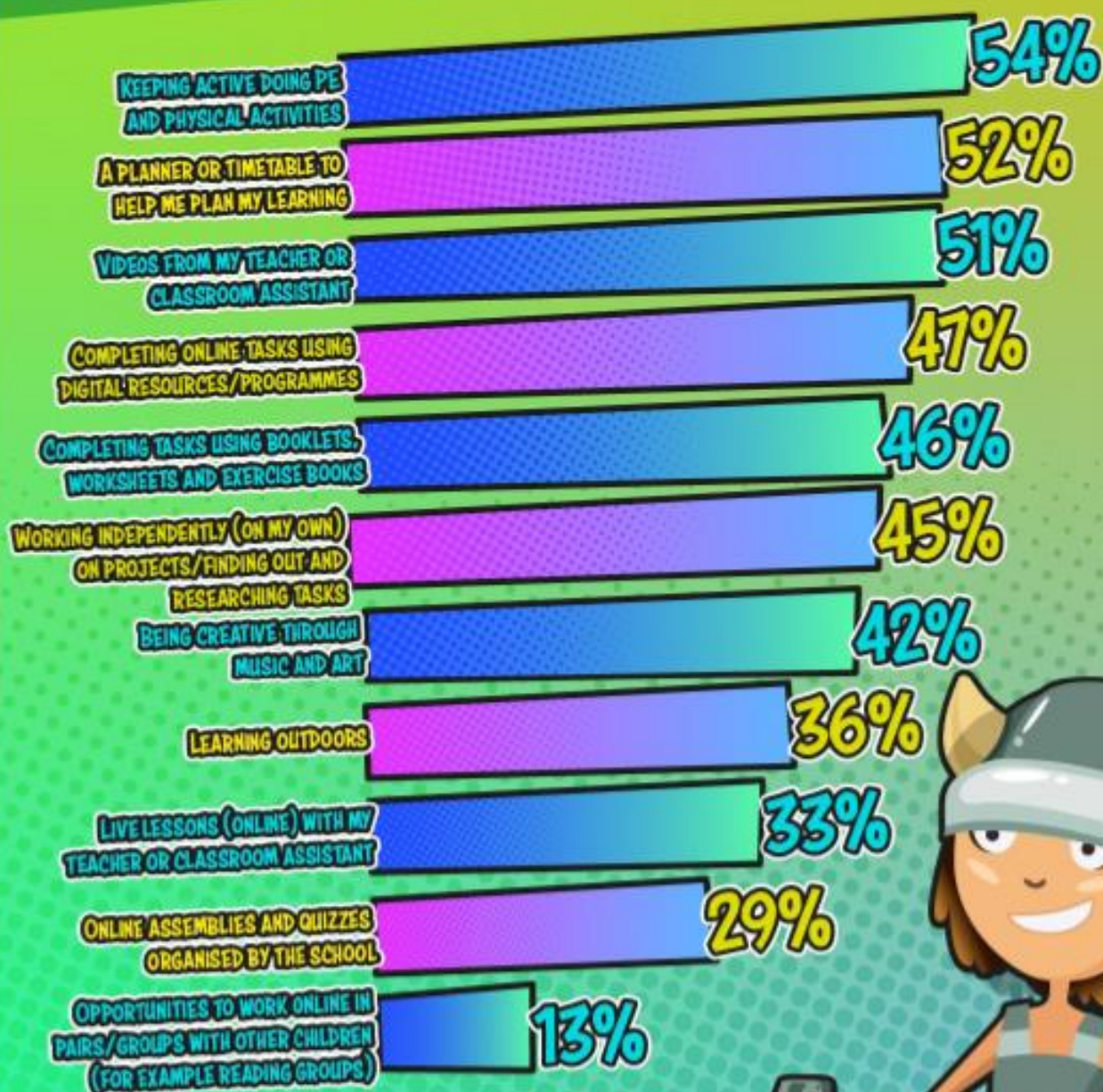
ALMOST ALL OF YOU ASKED
SOMEONE OR MORE THAN ONE
PERSON FOR HELP WITH YOUR
WORK WHEN YOU NEEDED IT.



THE MAIN THINGS

THAT HELPED WITH YOUR LEARNING

eti



FEEDBACK ON YOUR WORK

ALMOST ALL OF YOU RECEIVED SOME FORM OF FEEDBACK FROM YOUR SCHOOL ON
WORK YOU SUBMITTED DURING LOCKDOWN.

THE CHART BELOW SHOWS THE FORMS OF FEEDBACK YOU FOUND USEFUL.

**WRITTEN
COMMENTS** 83%

**STICKERS
& EMOJIS** 35%

**VOICE
FEEDBACK** 29%

**VIDEO
FEEDBACK** 21%



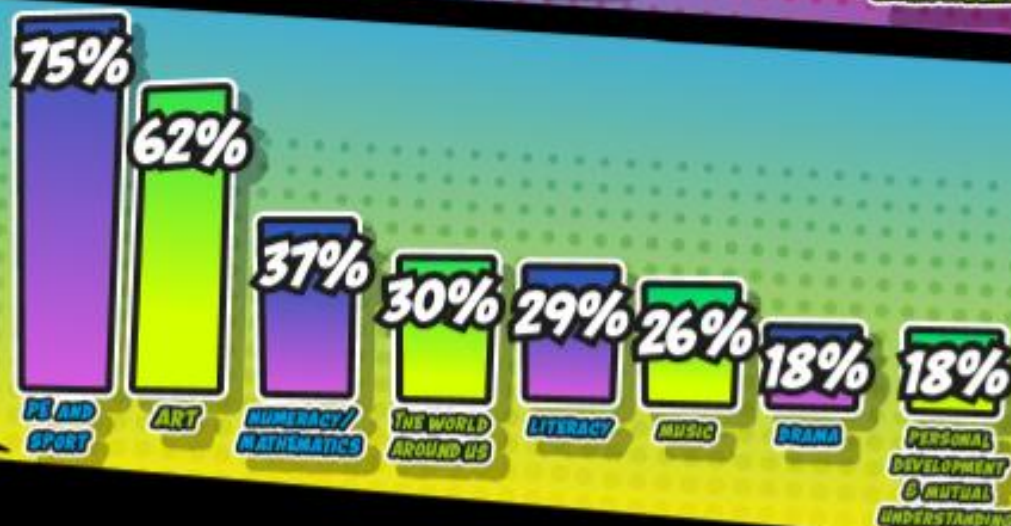
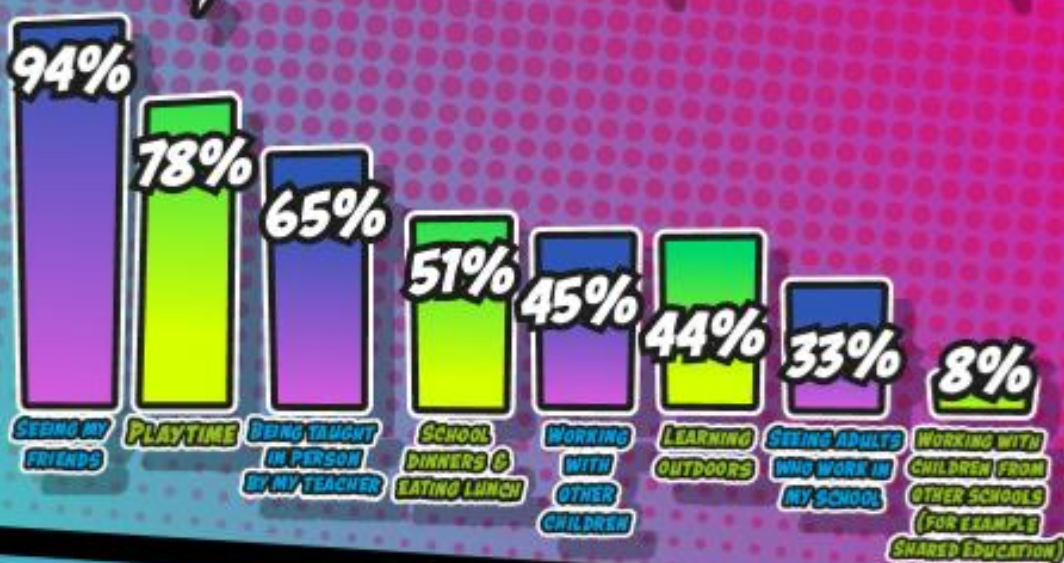
WHAT YOU ENJOY

ABOUT BEING BACK AT SCHOOL

ALMOST ALL OF YOU (94%) TOLD US THAT YOU ENJOY SEEING YOUR FRIENDS AGAIN AND MOST OF YOU (78%) ENJOY PLAYTIME IN SCHOOL.

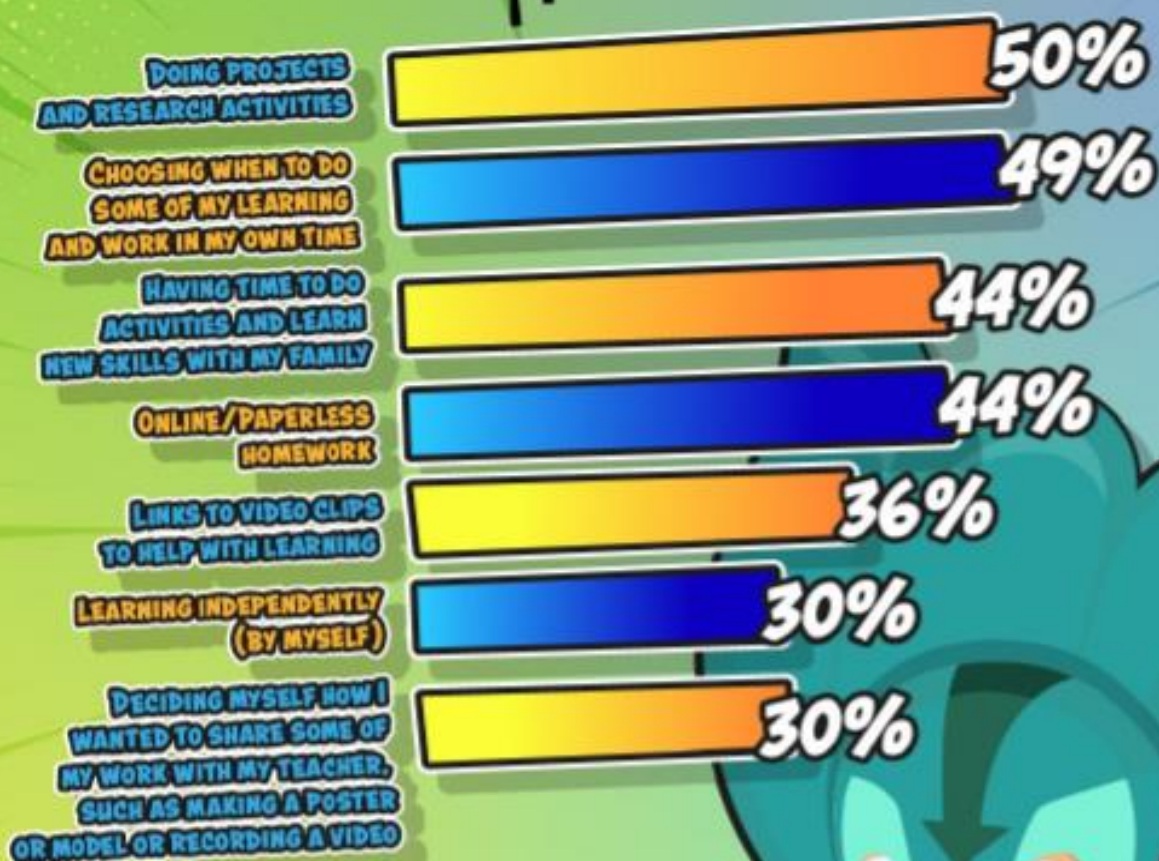
A MAJORITY OF YOU (65%) TOLD US THAT YOU ENJOY BEING TAUGHT IN PERSON AGAIN BY YOUR TEACHER.

YOU TOLD US THAT YOU MOST ENJOY PE AND SPORT (75%), ART (62%) AND LEARNING OUTDOORS (44%).



IN IRISH-MEDIUM SCHOOLS, A MAJORITY OF YOU ALSO ENJOY HEARING AND SPEAKING IRISH AGAIN THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND 32% OF YOU ENJOY DOING GAEILGE CLASSWORK AGAIN.

THINGS ABOUT YOUR LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE



AND FINALLY...



FOR COMPLETING OUR QUESTIONNAIRE

YOUR OPINIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN HELPING EVERYONE UNDERSTAND WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A PUPIL IN YEAR 6 OR YEAR 7 DURING LOCKDOWN. WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE FOUND THE INFORMATION INTERESTING.

THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE (ETI)