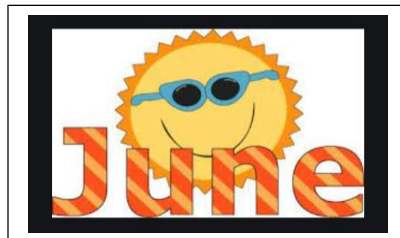




Principal: S Cumper
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Harding Memorial Primary School
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Thursday 10th June 2021

The month of June is always a mixture of memories, celebrations, farewells and looking forward for our Primary 7 pupils. As we prepare to say goodbye to these children, we wish them every success and happiness in their new schools and hope that they bring enthusiasm and dedication to all the opportunities that will come their way in the days ahead. We hope that they will look back upon their Primary School career with happy memories. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our *"New P1 Pupils"* for their excellent behaviour during the "Welcome to Harding Memorial Introductory Zoom Meeting" that took place earlier this week.

I hope that all parents and their children are enjoying the recent good weather. As I have welcomed our pupils into school over the last few weeks, there has been a really positive atmosphere, with the sun out, blue skies and a general feeling amongst society that the future looks positive. However as you have been previously informed Harding Memorial Primary School is still following Department of Education Covid Infection Control Guidance and advice for our risk mitigation measures. We have been very fortunate that to date we have not had to ask a class to self-isolate due to a confirmed P.H.A. Covid Case and we hope to continue that this will be the case for the whole of this last school term. We would like to remind all our Parent/Guardians to keep their distance when waiting in school grounds to leave or collect children and would like to thank you in advance for your continuing consideration to others.

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN KEEPING OUR SCHOOLS SAFE AND HELPING TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

EVERYONE SHOULD CONTINUE TO:

- ✓ **Wash** hands regularly
- ✓ **Cover** coughs and sneezes
- ✓ **Wear** a face covering where necessary
- ✓ **Practise** social distancing
- ✓ **Follow** the latest public health advice

WHAT SHOULD I NOT DO?

- ✓ **Don't** send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms or if they have been identified as a close contact
- ✓ **Don't** allow your child to use public transport unless you have no alternative
- ✓ **Don't** gather at the school entrance/gate
- ✓ **Don't** allow your child to share food/drinks with friends

Scooters and Bicycles in School

Harding Memorial Primary School recognises the many positive benefits of pupils Cycling and Scooting to and from school. We encourage the children (and their Parents/Carers) to take advantage of the improving weather and make their way, or at least part of the way, to school on foot. We would remind you to please be mindful of social distancing when walking to school.

The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle to and from school safely rests with the Parents/Carer and Harding Memorial Primary School has no liability for any consequences of that decision or for the security of any Bicycles or Scooters that have been left on School Premises. **We would like to remind you to make sure that all Scooters and Bicycles are “secured by a lock” when they are left in the School Playground.**



**Wednesday 23rd
June 2021**

Primary 1 & Primary 2, Primary 3 and Primary 4 and Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7 School Sports Day will take place in Cregagh Sports Ground (behind Iceland) on Wednesday 23rd June (weather permitting)

- **However due to Covid Infection Control Measure and Track and Trace we are unable to invite Parents to view Sports Day this year**
- **We are sorry that Parents have not been able to attend but hopefully “school day to day life will be back to normal next year”**
- **We hope to produce a celebratory “video” of Sports Day for 2021 which will be uploaded to the Harding Memorial Primary School You Tube Page before the end of 2020/2021**

- **P1 – P4 children will be dismissed from school that day at 12.15 pm.** There will be No school dinners or packed lunches for P1 – P4 pupils on Wednesday 23rd June 2021.
- P5 – P7 children will be returning to school and dismissed at their usual time.
- **Pupils do not need to wear school uniform and may come to school dressed ready for Sports Day.** We would ask you to ensure that your child has suitable footwear to participate in races and brings a coat to school as it can be cold.
- The children should come to school wearing appropriate clothing e.g. shorts, t-shirt, trainers and leggings/bottoms and top to keep warm between events.
- **In the event of sports day being cancelled due to inclement weather the same lunch arrangements will remain in place and all P1 – P4 children will go home from school at 12.15 pm.** Sports races will then be run off in school as and when timetabling permits.

Harding Memorial Primary School - Transformation to Controlled Integrated Status

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL (DP) 657 – HARDING MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

I refer to the above Development Proposal (DP) published by the Education Authority on 28 January 2021 proposing 'Harding Memorial Primary School will transform to Controlled Integrated Status with effect from 1 September 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter.'

The Minister has given careful consideration to this proposal and has decided to approve DP 657.

A full account of advice the Minister received to inform his decision, and a full narrative explaining the decision, will be published on the Department's website at: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/development-proposal-decisions-2021>.

During my time as Principal there have been considerable changes and developments within our School. I personally believe that Harding Memorial has a very special "niche market place" within the local school community. We are blessed to have Parents who have high aspirations for their Children. Our School has maintained a good reputation over a very long period and this reputation for quality is in no small measure due to the dedication and commitment of all School Staff and the support of our Parents to both the Pastoral and Curriculum aspects of day to day School Life. Thank You For Your Support.



CANNABIS OIL DISGUISED AS CONFECTIONARY

The purpose of this information is to inform Parent/Guardians of a warning all Schools have received from the Public Health Agency that they are aware of products that look like familiar sweet products with colourful packets, familiar cartoon images and which are appealing to children, but that in fact contain cannabis extract, or THC (the main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis). A young child assessed in hospital had inadvertently consumed cannabis after finding what they believed to be a packet of sweets on the ground. While on closer inspection the sweet packet is labelled as containing THC, to all other purposes they look like a common brand of sweets which are marketed for children.

Further Information on the Cannabis Containing Products and Their Effects:

The effects of THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) involves the central nervous and cardiovascular systems. In adults the effects are generally mild and short-lived but ingestion rather than inhalation is associated with longer lasting effects.

As children often have a smaller body mass than adults the effects may be more profound and can include:

- Loss of coordination
- Hallucinations
- Nausea/vomiting
- Lethargy, collapse or loss of consciousness
- Cardiovascular

There have been a few seizures of similar products (see images below for examples) - labelled 'Medicated Nerds Ropes, 400 mg THC per rope' and 'Medicated Nerdz Rope Bites, 600 mg THC'. Analysis has confirmed the presence of THC. The sweet edibles are available in a variety of flavours, and sold in branded packaging- SXEDIBLES. Other branded packaging from SXEDIBLES, 'millionz bites, 600 mg THC'- also confirmed to contain THC, with the product available in multiple flavours. Other products have names which often have a slight variation of a familiar sweet product e.g. have received 'Haribo Fruitilicious'- wrapped jelly like sweets or Calibo Xtra Strong'



Future Date	School Event Planner
Monday 21 st June	School Development Day – Pupils Should Not Attend School On This Date
Wednesday 23 rd June	School Sports Day with all P1 – P4 pupils finishing school at 12.15pm and P5 – P7 finishing school at 3.00pm (No Parents Can Attend This Event)
Wednesday 30 th June	Last day of term with a 12.15pm finish for all P1 – P7 Pupils