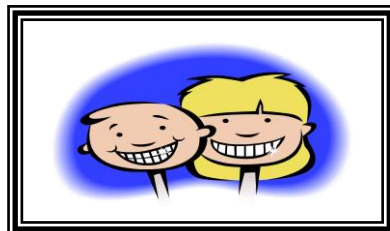


Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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Thursday 13th June 2024

Primary 1 to Primary 7 Sports Day – Thank You

Well done to everyone for taking part so well in all the P1 – P7 Sports Day Races on Tuesday 11th June. This is an important occasion in the life of school and it was great to see so many children participating and enjoying the activities. There was great excitement as they took part in their various races and they all ran very enthusiastically with great determination to get to the finish line. As we all know it is taking part and having fun which is important so we say **"Well Done"** to every one of the children for doing their very best and enjoying the races. It was lovely to hear them excitedly cheering their friends and classmates along. Thank you to all our school staff for the organisation of each of these enjoyable events and also to the large number of parents and friends who came along to support the school and encourage the children. Our children love seeing you there to watch and cheer. It really does make a difference to them and to us as well. Thank you also to Cregagh Sports Club for allowing us to use their wonderful facilities.

Goodbye to Our Primary 7 Pupils

The month of June is always a mixture of memories, celebrations, farewells and looking forward for our Primary 7 pupils. Yesterday our P7 pupils participated in a special celebratory experience at We Are Vertigo and next week we will be celebrating our P7 Leavers Service and we look forward to spending some quality time with our P7 Parent/Guardians and Friends of the School. As we get ready to goodbye to our oldest 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. Thank you to everyone associated with Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School for their help and support over the past year in so many different ways. Thank you to our Teaching and Non – Teaching Staff who continue to work so incredibly hard for all our children. To all those individuals who are leaving – Children, Staff and indeed Parent/Guardians who have also had a long association with our school, thank you and best wishes for the future.

Sun Protection Guidelines and Advice

In anticipation of any warm weather which may come our way in June, we would like to remind Parent/Guardians of our Sun Protection guidance. Ideally, please apply sun cream to your Child/Children before they come to school on hot days. **The long-lasting protection types are recommended.** Please note that the school will not be able to provide a sun cream to students. Our main aim is to educate the children about sun safety. We will also look at promoting other ways to stay safe, for example: wearing sun hats, sun glasses, drinking water (carrying water bottle) and staying in the shade. However our school cannot be held responsible for any child who, despite our best efforts, gets sunburnt. Our children's safety is very important to us and by working together we hope to ensure they are all protected when out in the sunny weather. We would like to thank all Parent/Guardians in advance for your co-operation and support. Additional information and advice about keeping "safe in the sun" is accessed:

www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/

How to be Sun Safe with Shade Man



Sunscreen must be applied before you go outside in the sun for it to work



Wear sunglasses and don't look directly at the sun



To keep protected you should use all forms of cover including hats, sunglasses, clothing, sunscreen and shade



Wear a hat such as a sun cap like mine to keep your head cool and protected



Don't stay in the sun any longer than 15 minutes without protection



Keep hydrated, especially on very warm days



Always play in the shade



Reapply sunscreen regularly even when using 'once a day' and 'water resistant' sunscreens



Free School Meals and Uniform Allowances 2024-25

We are getting ready to launch applications for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowances for the school year beginning September 2024 - and hope the following will be helpful as you plan your New Intake meetings with parents.

Applications will be opening soon on EA Connect. We expect the system to be operational from the week commencing 17 June 2024.

More details will be available in due course, but we would ask you to share the information in this newsletter with parents ahead of the launch.

Proof of Benefit Letters

Parents/guardians in receipt of any of the benefits listed below, will need to upload a Proof of Benefit Letter with their application.

Qualifying social security benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit

A Proof of Benefit Letter can be requested by [visiting this website](#). As it can take at least five days to obtain the letter, applicants are advised to request it now in advance of the launch.

We ask you to remind your parent community of this requirement - **as an application cannot be processed until we receive all supporting documentation for the applicant.**

Tax Credits or Universal Credit

Important update for Universal Credit recipients - the Department of Education has announced an **interim uplift** in the annual net household income threshold for eligibility for people who receive Universal Credit, **from £14,000 to £15,000.**

We would be grateful if you could advise your parents of this change to the 2024-25 application process.

If parents/guardians receive Tax Credits or Universal Credit, they do not need the Proof of Benefit Letter. **However, they will still need to upload evidence of their Tax Credits or Universal Credit benefits.**

If parents/guardians have difficulty in obtaining a Proof of Benefit Letter, or do not understand how to provide evidence of their Universal Credit or Tax Credits, **their local Social Security Agency office Digital Hub** will have staff on hand to help them obtain the correct evidence to support their application.



Quarry Safety Campaign “Stay Safe Stay Out”

School is contacting Parent/Guardians to make them aware about a national safety campaign which aims to warn young people about the dangers of trespassing in disused or active quarries. Tragically, over the past few years a number of young people have been killed or seriously injured after entering disused or working quarries and got into difficulty in deep cold lagoons or on the steep rugged quarry faces. With warm weather and the summer holidays approaching, there is concern that children, teenagers and young adults could be tempted to enter their local quarry. To help prevent this, the Mineral Products Association NI (MPANI), with the support of the Health and Safety Executive NI (HSENI), are promoting the Mineral Products Association (MPA) national “Stay Safe” campaign to raise awareness amongst younger children, teenagers, parents, teachers and youth workers about the dangers of entering quarries uninvited. The potential hazards that people expose themselves to are:

- ✓ Swimming in quarry lakes that can have very cold water even on a hot day in the middle of summer. Strong swimmers have drowned in quarries due to the unexpected impact that the extreme cold has had on their bodies.
- ✓ The water in quarry lakes can be very deep and shelving, exit from the water may only be possible in a few places, there may be pumps working or currents that can drag you under the water.
- ✓ There can be concealed underwater obstructions and other hazards that can seriously injure swimmers or individuals jumping into the water – tombstoning into quarry lakes is not safe.
- ✓ Tunnelling into piles of sand or playing on stockpiles exposes you to the risk of sudden collapses or movements that can easily bury you.
- ✓ Walking near the edge of quarry faces exposes you to the risk of serious falls as the edges can be unstable and collapse unexpectedly or sheer faces be obstructed by vegetation.
- ✓ Climbing or walking near rock faces can expose you to the risk of rock falls.
- ✓ Surfaces in quarries that may look solid, such as the surface of a silt pond, can suddenly break and act like quick sand sucking you down.
- ✓ Trail and quad biking in a quarry will expose riders to risks from unstable terrain, unexpected obstructions and being hit by moving plant.
- ✓ Young people on bikes or on foot may not be visible to operators of large machinery, they may not appreciate that the driver cannot see them.
- ✓ Quarries can often be located in remote sites where mobile reception is poor and there is no one on hand to help in the event of an accident.

This issue is particularly relevant for each school in the Northern Ireland - as there is always a quarry no more than 10 miles away.

HARDING MEMORIAL INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Holiday List For The “INCOMING” Academic Year = 2024/2025

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.”

First Day of School

School will start for P2 to P7 pupils on Friday 30th August 2024 with school stopping for all pupils at 12.15pm (No School Dinners)

Half Term Holiday

School is closed from Monday 28th October 2024 – Friday 1st November 2024

Last Day of Term 1 – Friday 20th December 2024 at 12.15pm

Christmas Holiday

School is closed from Monday 23rd December 2024 to Thursday 2nd January 2025

Spring Term

School starts on Friday 3rd January 2025

School Development Day - Wednesday 12th February 2025

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

Spring Half Term Holiday

School is closed on Thursday 13th February 2024 and Friday 14th February 2025

St Patrick’s Day

School is closed on Monday 17th March 2025

Last Day of Term 2 – Friday 11th April 2025 at 12.15pm

Easter Holiday

School is closed from Monday 14th April 2025 to Friday 25th April 2025

Summer Term

Summer term starts on Monday 28th April 2025

May Day Holiday

School is closed on Monday 5^h May 2025

Summer Half Term Holiday

School is closed on Monday 26th May 2025

School Development Day – Friday 13th June 2025

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

School Development Day – Monday 16th June 2025

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

End of Summer Term – The last day of the Summer Term will be Monday 30th June 2025

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School

Board of Governor Parent Questionnaire Interim Response – June 2024

Thank you to everyone who had completed the Board of Governors Parent/Guardian Questionnaire and returned it to school. We had a questionnaire response rate of 55%. This response rate is broadly similar to previous Board of Governor School Questionnaires and is a very important statistical component when the working relationship between Home and School is monitored and evaluated by the Board of Governors. This is a very substantial piece of documentation and will be responded to in more depth at the start of the incoming 2024/2025 School Year. However the Board of Governors have authorised myself as School Principal to share the findings of **Question 20: *I would recommend Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School to another Parent/Guardian.***

Q	Board of Governors Questionnaire Information for Parent/Guardians	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
20	I would recommend Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School to another Parent/Guardian	71 %	24 %	3 %	2 %	0 %

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School strives to ensure that its pupils receive an education which best suits their needs and which will best prepare them for the world in which they live. To achieve this aim we, the Staff and the Board of Governors, feel that it is essential to nurture strong links with the community we serve. The school strives to provide a caring ethos and seeks to value the worth of each child while recognising and taking account of differences in ability and environment. *“Everyone Is Important At Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School”*. The children are at the heart of our vision and philosophy. We work very hard to build a positive and encouraging ethos where individuals can gain independence and confidence and take responsibility. We are a happy community where every pupil’s individual circumstances matter and are taken into account. We have high expectations of Parent/Guardian involvement from the moment a child begins school. We believe strongly that the Child, Parent/Guardian and the School need to work together in mutual support for individual potential to be achieved. **Obviously this Question 20 Response is a vital statistic for all the stakeholders of Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School. We are therefore extremely proud that so many Parent/Guardians (95%) agree with the statement that they would “recommend HMIPS school to another Parent / Guardian”.**

❖ We thank you all for your continued support as essential School Stakeholders

Please see the School Statistical Viewpoint of the Question & Answer Percentage Response listed below:

- ✓ 90% = Almost/Nearly all
- ✓ 75% - 90% = Most
- ✓ 50% - 74% = A Majority
- ✓ 30% - 49% = A Significant Minority
- ✓ 10% - 29% = A Minority
- ✓ less than 10% = Very Few