



Principal: S Cumper  
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Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

Dear P1 – P7 Parent/Guardian



Harding Memorial Primary School  
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As I was preparing to write this December 2020 Parent Information Letter, I reviewed the content of a previous parent newsletter from December 2019 and it illustrated to me how much our *“normal day to day school life has changed over the last nine months”* due to the devastating impact of Covid. Every single member of our school community will have experienced drastic changes to their normal established routine. Many of you may have vulnerable family members that you continue to be worried about and I have no doubt that for a very significant number of families the Covid Emergency has been a *“very challenging experience”* **Please be assured that you are not alone. HMPS is there for you.** Our expectations as a school have also changed and our School will always be here to support and give guidance, if and when required. If you need anything, please e mail school and either I or Mrs Baird will get back to you in due course to discuss your concerns.

I would like to once again publicly express my gratitude to all our Pupils, Parents and Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff for adapting so well to the *“new way of doing school”*. Harding Memorial Primary School has continued to adapt to the *“new normal”* and I am really proud of our children for all their hard work both inside and outside of the classroom. There has been a real festive vibe to school this week, with Christmas decorations appearing all across the school and the sound of Christmas songs throughout the school in preparation for next week’s Christmas Show

We will continue to try our very best to provide children with as much of our school Christmas traditions as possible. But obviously certain things will be slightly different due to our new *“Covid Infection Control Organisational Measures”*. In particular I totally understand that our reluctant decision to advise parents that, this year, children will be unable to bring Christmas cards into school to swap with their friends has been a source of disappointment. Nevertheless I would encourage both Parents and Children to design their own Christmas Card to share with their Class Teacher and peer group via Seesaw. Some parents have contacted me this week to see if it is still ok to send in gifts for School Staff. I would like to respond in this manner **Firstly, we never expect a gift from our Children / Parents – we are here simply to do the job we love – doing the best for the children in our care on a daily basis.** However, if you feel that you want to send a gift into school, then you are still more than welcome to leave the Present suitably labelled at the School Drop Off box at Mrs Shannon’s Office which will then be delivered to the appropriate person.

**P1 – P7 Christmas Show – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**Please remember that in order to promote the “Christmas Spirit” we would also be encouraging all pupils to wear a Christmas Jumper with their normal School Uniform on Wednesday 9th December 2020.**



**If you know of any Parent/Guardian who has a child that is due to start Primary 1 in September 2021, please encourage them to make contact with the Principal of Harding Memorial Primary School so that we can arrange a telephone appointment with them to discuss our School. We are always keen to provide a Question and Answer Session about the future plans of HMPS.**

Admissions for Primary 1 will open in January 2021. We would normally hold a series of "Open Events" to showcase Harding Memorial Primary School in December and January, but unfortunately once again Covid has impacted on our traditional arrangements. If you are due to send your child to Primary 1 in September 2021, or have a friend or family member who will be looking to apply for a Primary School in September, *"please feel free to send them my way"*.



**➤ I am willing to have an extended telephone conversation with any and all Prospective Primary 1 Parent/Guardians about the future plans for our school, including providing an update on the "Process of Transformation to a Controlled Integrated Primary School."**

We are also in the process of designing a video showcasing life at our School ahead of the start of the Primary 1 Digital Admission Process in January 2021. Prospective Parents can arrange to collect an information pack from the Office during the School Day and "Question and Answer Telephone Calls" can be arranged for January 2021, with either myself as School Principal or with Mrs Baird, as School Vice-Principal. Any Parent/Guardian wishing to sign up for one of these calls should contact the school office at their earliest possible convenience either by Phone or E Mail.



- ✓ Unless we hear otherwise from Stormont, the planned date for the end of Term 1 is Friday 18th December 2020.
- School will close at 12.00pm for all Primary 1, Primary 3 and Primary P5 pupils
- School will close at 12.10pm for all Primary 2, Primary 4 and Primary 6 pupils
- School will close at 12.15pm for all Primary 7 pupils

**➤ Term 2 will start on Monday 4th January 2021 at the normal individual starting time arrangements for all P1 – P7 Classes**