

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



Principal: S Cumper
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Thursday 4th January 2024

Dear P1 – P7 Parent/Guardian



105 Cregagh Road
Belfast BT6 8PZ
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We hope you all had a most enjoyable Christmas and Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School would like to extend best wishes to all our Pupil, Parents and Staff for a very peaceful New Year. It seems only a “blink of an eye” since I was writing words of welcome at the start of the First Term and here we are at the start of a New Year. It is our intention to create a high expectation culture throughout our entire school community. We want to enable all our children to reach their full potential and to further develop the essential linkage between Home and School through the development of a “Learning Community”. Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School has a thriving enrolment and we are very appreciative of the ongoing Parent/Guardian support since the start of the current school year.

Applications for Primary 1 at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School September 2024

Children born between 2 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 will be due to start Primary One in September 2024 as they will be of compulsory school age and Parents/Guardians must apply for a place in a Primary School.

The EA Connect School Applications portal will open at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 9th January 2024 and will close at 12.00 noon on Friday 26th January 2024. There is expected to be very heavy demand on the EA website during the first few days and some parents may experience difficulty with the website. If you need any help with the online application process feel free to make e mail contact with school and we will be happy to help. If you know of any Parent/Guardian who has a child due to start Primary 1 in September 2024, please encourage them to contact the School.

- **Please note that the closing date for applications to admission for Primary 1 for September 2024 is Friday 26th January 2024 at 12.00 noon.**
- This is Closing date/time for receipt of punctual applications (online Citizen Portal closes) and any applications received after this date will be considered late.
- **There will be a Clay Razy Craft Afternoon Session for Prospective Primary 1 Pupils and Parent/Guardians on Monday 8th January 2024 starting at 3.00pm.**
- **School will close at 1.55pm/2.00pm for all Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils on Monday 8th January 2024 to enable School Staff to make preparations for this school induction event.**
- If you know of any parent who has a child due to start Primary 1 in September 2024, please encourage them to attend our Prospective Primary 1 Pupil event on Monday 8th January starting at 3.00pm and finishing at approximately 4.00pm.

- In addition any Prospective P1 Parent/Guardian who would like to tour the school and view our Foundation Stage Resource area should contact the school office in order to arrange an individual appointment and tour of Harding Memorial with the School Principal. Full details about how and when to apply for a Primary 1 place at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School can be found by accessing our School Website

www.hardingmemorial.org.uk



Applying for
a Primary
school place?

Key Dates
September 2024 to
June 2025 school year

12 December 2023
Admissions Criteria published

9 January 2024
Applications open at 12noon

26 January 2024
Applications close at 12noon



Scan here for
more information

www.ea.ni.org.uk



Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



**P1 PLACES
FOR SEPT 2024**

**COME & SEE
OUR SCHOOL**

**PROSPECTIVE P1
OPEN AFTERNOON
WITH FUN CLAY-RAZY SESSION**

**MON 8 JANUARY
3PM-4PM**

**CONTACT SCHOOL TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE**



**105 Cregagh Road
Belfast
BT6 8PZ**

Tel: 028 90458040

hardingmemorial.org.uk

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 a school classroom.

School Punctuality

This term we will once again have a major focus on School Punctuality as part of our ongoing efforts to encourage parents and carers to ensure that their children come to school on time and ready to learn. We understand that all families will occasionally face situations which make it difficult for their children to arrive on time (eg: sleeping in or getting caught in traffic due to unfavourable weather conditions). School would be sympathetic to these circumstances **and in such unavoidable situations we would certainly prefer that your child arrives late, rather than being kept off school for the entire day.**

➤ Any pupils arriving after 9.05am should access the Front School Entrance where they will be able to gain access to school.

❖ **However, what we are particularly concerned about is the small minority of children who “regularly arrive late” to school especially after 9.15am each day**

We feel that this recurrent situation is unfair to the children themselves, their teachers, the other children in their classes whose learning is disrupted and office staff who have to make adjustments to attendance registers, dinner registers and computer records.

❖ **Harding Memorial will continue to monitor Punctuality during Term 2.**

❖ **Formal Written Contact will be made with individual P1 – P7 Parent/Guardians to discuss both continued morning lateness, especially during the Half Term Period from January 2024 to February 2024, as well as Pupil Attendance of less than 85% from the beginning of the current 2023/2024 Academic Year.**

School Uniform Procedures

At Harding Memorial we are extremely proud of our school uniform. It is smart, sensible, hardwearing and engenders a sense of belonging. During the winter months we would greatly appreciate it if each child could come to school with a waterproof coat. In addition, we would request that all children have access to either a coat with a hood or else a hat or cap to use when the weather is inclement. Children may wish to wear waterproof boots on the way to and from school but they should bring ordinary school shoes to change into as this will obviously more comfortable for them to wear in class. We recognise that economically this continues to be a difficult time for most people and we have recently replenished our supply of school uniform and now have a number of spare school uniform items that are available for Parent/Guardians to access on request. Please contact either Mrs Lyttle or Mr Cumper if you require further information or assistance with this issue.

- ✓ We would be grateful if parents could use some time over the next few days to check school uniforms for missing name identification labels. We occasionally have some “lost property” in school which we are unable to return to children when there is no identification available to view on the clothing item.
- ✓ Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled with each child’s name visible in order for School to be able to return clothing items to their correct owner. This is obviously a priority issue for our School. We would appreciate if your child knows where the name label identification is to be found. It can be very challenging to identify individual clothing items as a number of our school pupils “wear similar types of clothing”.
- ✓ Finally if your child/children brings home an item of clothing that does not belong to them, we would request that this item is returned to School as soon as possible in order for us to reunite it with the correct child.



We have a number of children in school who have a severe food allergy to peanuts and nuts. It is important that there is strict avoidance of these foods to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction. These children are at risk if they come in contact with peanut/nut or eat them. We are asking for Parent/Guardian support in order to provide all our pupils with a safe school environment. To help reduce the chance of this occurring, we are asking that you do not send your child/children to school with any products containing peanuts or nuts. It is the responsibility of whoever makes the lunch/snacks to ensure that there are no nuts or peanuts listed on the packaging. This includes peanut butter, cereal bars, Snickers bars, packets of nuts etc. We would like to thank all Parent/Guardians in advance for their support and co-operation with this very important Health and Safety issue.

Safeguarding Children

As part of our Pastoral Care and Safeguarding programme it is important that everyone in school is clear about **Home Time Routines**. Please ensure your child fully understands who is meant to be collecting them from school and that this corresponds with the information which has been communicated to school. **In addition, if you are unavoidably delayed please phone the School Office and let us know immediately – and especially before 1.45pm for P1 – P3 pupils.** Finally, please advise your child that if you do not arrive that he/she should return to the School Office and inform a member of School Staff. This will reinforce what we are telling them in school and will avoid unnecessary worry or concern. We thank all Primary 1 – Primary 7 Parent/Guardians in advance for their cooperation with these very important organisational arrangements.