

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



Principal: S Cumper
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Thursday 6th January 2022



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Dear P1 – P7 Parent/Guardian

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 as well as welcoming those children and families who have joined us in 2022. 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 2022

Children who are 4 years old on or before the 1st of July must begin their primary education from the beginning of the school year following their 4th birthday. **Children born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 will be due to start Primary One in September 2022 as they will be of compulsory school age and Parents/Guardians must apply for a place in a Primary School.**

The Education Authority Online Portal for Primary 1 applications for September 2021 will go live on 10th January 2022 and to make an application simply [click on the link below](#) which will take you directly to the EA website www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions

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 2022, please encourage them to contact the School. Unfortunately, due to COVID we have been unable to have our annual Open Evening but we are still able to offer an Individual Tour of our School for Prospective P1 Parents and this facility can be arranged by e mailing eshannon845@c2kni.net as soon as possible.

- **Please note that the closing date for applications to admission for Primary 1 for September 2022 is Friday 28 January 2022 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.
- 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 Welcome Video

www.hardingmemorial.org.uk



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.**

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

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.

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

❖ **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 2022 to February 2022, as well as Pupil Attendance of less than 85% from the beginning of the current 2021/2022 Academic Year.**

School Uniform Procedures

At Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School 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 wear boots on the way to and from school but should bring their ordinary school shoes to change into.

- 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.**
- 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.
- Any Parent/Guardian who thinks that their child has misplaced an item of clothing should make contact with either their child’s Class Teacher, the School Building Supervisor – Mrs Lyttle or the School Principal – Mr Cumper in order that this “Lost Property Situation” can be addressed in a timely and structured manner.

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

➤ **Please Do not send your child to school if they are unwell and especially if they have any covid symptoms such as:**

- ✓ High Temperature, New / Persistent Cough, Loss of taste or smell – Stay at home, isolate and take a Lateral Flow Test. **If the test is Positive – Please Inform School Immediately.**
- ✓ This will enable us to issue a Warn and Inform Letter to the appropriate Year Group Class.
- ✓ It may be for the best if any “sick child” does not return to school until their symptoms have gone for at least 48 hours – even if the Lateral Test Result was negative –as there are currently a lot of “sick bugs” present within the wider School Community.
- ✓ If children are isolating at the direction of the Public Health Agency, please contact the Principal
- ✓ We would formally request that all Adults please keep maintaining social distance while in school grounds and continue to wear a face mask within the proximity of our School Playground

Should your child be diagnosed with coronavirus you must inform us immediately so we may Email Warn and Inform letters to each year group Family

We have maintained the “bubble approach” with our Key Stage Pupils in order to try to minimise the transmission of infection. **Our priority will continue to be the safety and welfare of our Pupils and Staff and we must follow best advice to protect one another.** We appreciate the ongoing co-operation of parents who have thoughtfully kept their children at home whilst there have been COVID positive cases in the household, in order to minimise the spread of infection within school. This has undoubtedly helped reduce the number of positive cases and protected our school community. We fully acknowledge that this continues to be a very difficult time for many families who have had to juggle work and family commitments as a result of COVID illness and associated isolation but your understanding and support have been very much valued as we navigate our way through this continuing situation.

We intend to remain open for all pupils unless we are instructed to close by the Department of Education **or we do not have adequate staff to keep pupils safely in school.**

We have so far managed to address challenging staffing absence issues in Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School during Term 1 without any major disruption to Pupils but as acknowledged by the most recent letter from the Department of Education “*levels of community transmission are very high*”. If it is necessary for an individual Class or Classes in HMIPS to transfer to Remote Learning instead of Face to Face Teaching – we will be in urgent Text and E Mail Communication with Year Group Parent/Guardians to confirm these arrangements. I hope that this information is self-explanatory, but if any Parent/Guardian has any questions or queries, please feel free to contact me at your earliest possible convenience.

Yours sincerely
Mr Stephen Cumper
Principal