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Remote Learning Organisational Information

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Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

The Northern Ireland Executive have confirmed that School Closures will most likely extend until after Half Term. As it stands, Harding Memorial Primary School will hopefully resume Face to Face Teaching for our children on Monday 22nd February. Obviously none of us wanted to be back into this Lockdown Routine and I suspect that the return to an extended period of Home Schooling will be concerning for many Parents. However I feel confident that as a School we have established a “**Robust Remote Learning Format**” that will be valued by yourselves as Parent/Guardians and your children. HMPS has reflected on Parental Feedback from the previous period of Home Learning from March to June 2020 and have made a number of organisational changes which has been augmented by a very significant financial investment with Digital Learning Technologies e.g Seesaw, Bug Club, Education City, TT Rockstars etc

Class Teachers will be engaging with their pupils throughout the day and thank you so much for all the messages of support and encouragement on how positive an experience that that the first week has been for both you and your children. But as I stated many times during the Spring/Summer closure of schools, Remote/Home Learning can never replicate what happens in the classroom. As part of the established School Routine for “On – Line Learning” Class Teachers will use ICT Recording Technology to introduce topics and concepts or to simply say hello and encourage the children. “Videos” will not necessarily be posted everyday on Seesaw, but they will be used as and when appropriate. Please remember that your primary source of communication with School Teachers should be via Seesaw and that for the most part, you should expect that Teachers will respond only between 9.00am/3.30pm. This may vary, due to individual teachers’ personal circumstances but your expectation should be that you will only receive a response between the hours of 9.00am and 3.30pm. Please feel free to also email myself in School outside of these hours in the case of an urgent or pressing issue.

As I have said before, Harding Memorial Primary School wants to be as flexible as possible and support School Families as much as we can. We believed that all children should be engaging every day in some learning – but please don’t put yourself under significant stress. We do what we can. If you manage to get all the work completed –

GREAT. If you manage to get some work completed – **GREAT.** If you don't manage to get any work we sent home completed, but you have found online resources and activities to complete linked to your child's ability – **GREAT.** Anything is better than nothing! Please stay safe and remember to maintain an appropriate Work/Life Balance. We have no idea what circumstances you are dealing with, as you work from home, look after elderly relatives, worry about your business or finances, teach your children, feed the baby, deal with illness...etc. Please do what you think is best for your family.

Our greatest learning from the "First Period of Lockdown" last year was on how well the children adapted and returned to school life and learning in Term 1 of this new 2020/2021 School Year - and that was after over "Five Months Absence From School". On their return to school next month, I genuinely believe that we will be able to work with them in class "to recover any lost learning". Personally I feel that the current Lockdown Situation is like "déjà vu. There is no doubt that this month of January will be challenging for both you as Parents and for your children, but it is also frustrating for us as School Staff. We miss the "Face to Face Classroom Interaction" with our Pupils. But I think that it is very important that we all stay calm and positive and try to maintain at least a modicum of normality for our children in the next few weeks. Whilst January may well feel gloomy and dark, light always follow darkness and "this too shall pass".

Are there any other educational resources we could access to use with our children ?

The English Government and BBC have both created some fabulous online learning resources. If you want to have a look at these resources, or follow their timetable then please feel free. They are based on the English year group names....so please use the guide below to make sure you are selecting the correct year group: Primary 7 = Year 6, Primary 6 = Year 5, Primary 5 = Year 4, Primary 4 = Year 3, Primary 3 = Year 2, Primary 2 = Year 1, Primary 1 = Reception

- ✓ BBC support can be reached via this website: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons
- ✓ The Government online learning via The Oak Academy can be reached via this website: www.thenational.academy/online-classroom
- ✓ Olaf Falafel has been described as the "New Tony Hart" with his Art Club series, where each week he teaches children to draw and offers quick and funny biographies of famous artists. www.youtube.com/user/OlafFalafel
- ✓ The Mindfulness in Schools Project is restarting its daily drop-in sessions where children can log-in on Zoom and be talked through a 20-minute mindfulness exercise. <https://mindfulnessinschools.org/misp-sit-together/>
- ✓ In addition the BBC is bringing its biggest ever education offer from Monday 11th January 2021 onwards: [@CBBC](https://www.bbc.com/news/education) will have a three-hour block of primary school programming from 9.00am – please see the Timetable below for more details



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Primary Learning on CBBC				
09:00 BBC Bitesize Daily 5-7 years Maths & History	09:00 BBC Bitesize Daily 5-7 years English	09:00 BBC Bitesize Daily 5-7 years Science	09:00 BBC Bitesize Daily 5-7 years Maths & French	09:00 BBC Bitesize Daily 5-7 years English & Wellbeing
09:20 BBC Bitesize Daily 7-9 years Maths & History	09:20 BBC Bitesize Daily 7-9 years English	09:20 BBC Bitesize Daily 7-9 years Science	09:20 BBC Bitesize Daily 7-9 years Maths & French	09:20 BBC Bitesize Daily 7-9 years English & Wellbeing
09:40 BBC Bitesize Daily 9-11 years Maths & History	09:40 BBC Bitesize Daily 9-11 years English	09:40 BBC Bitesize Daily 9-11 years Science	09:40 BBC Bitesize Daily 9-11 years Maths & French	09:40 BBC Bitesize Daily 9-11 years English & Wellbeing
10:05 Celebrity Supply Teacher Maths with Mark Labbett	10:05 Celebrity Supply Teacher English with Geri Horner	10:05 Celebrity Supply Teacher PE with Marcus Rashford	10:05 Celebrity Supply Teacher Gardening with Jeff Hordley & Zoe Henry	10:05 Celebrity Supply Teacher Food Science with Heston Blumenthal
10:15 Horrible Histories	10:15 Horrible Histories	10:15 Horrible Histories	10:15 Horrible Histories	10:15 Horrible Histories
10:45 Our School	10:45 Our School	10:40 Our School	10:45 Our School	10:45 Our School
11:05 Art Ninja	11:05 Art Ninja	11:05 Art Ninja	11:05 Art Ninja	11:05 Art Ninja
11:35 Operation Ouch!	11:35 Operation Ouch!	11:30 Operation Ouch!	11:35 Operation Ouch!	11:35 Operation Ouch!

**Continue your learning at bbc.co.uk/bitesize
Catch up on all the shows on BBC iPlayer**

**Did you know you can use an Xbox or PlayStation
to browse the internet?**

**Allowing you to view Google Classroom, Seesaw
and other websites?**



XBOX

1. Go to 'My games and apps'
2. Find 'Microsoft Edge' and select
3. Visit the website



*You can use the controller to type and select,
and can even plug in a USB keyboard!*

PLAYSTATION 4

1. Go to 'Library'
2. Select 'All'
3. Select 'Internet Browser'
4. Visit the website



You can use your controller to type and select!

We are really looking forward to welcoming a new group of Primary 1 pupils to Harding Memorial Primary School next September. Applications are now open and please find attached to a link to a short guidance video that is intended to help Parents with the application process. <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Socially distanced and Restricted School Tours have been postponed – but School is providing “**Virtual Whats App Tours**” for Prospective Primary 1 Parent/Guardians. Full details about how and when to apply for a Primary 1 place at Harding Memorial Primary School can be found by accessing our website www.hardingmemorial.org.uk

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions we are unable to hold our usual Open Days for prospective parents and their children. However, if you have a child due to start Primary 1 in September 2021 please email the school at info@hardingmemorial.belfast.ni.sch.uk to arrange a personal virtual tour of the school and a chat with the School Principal. We look forward to welcoming you to our school. To access the application process for Primary 1 please click on the following link www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions



I hope that the attached 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