

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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Tuesday 2nd November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to what will undoubtedly be a very busy half term. We hope that everyone had a good break over the Halloween Vacation Period. We really appreciated the excellent Home/School support demonstrated by Parent/Guardians during the first half term. We would like to thank you all in advance again for your continued support during the run up to Christmas. Parent/Guardian support with regards to attendance, punctuality, supervision of seesaw homework and ensuring that our children adhere to uniform, hair and jewellery school guidelines make a very positive contribution to school life.

We are pleased to inform parents that Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School will be participating in the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF) **Anti-Bullying Week from Monday 15th November – Friday 19th November 2021**. The focus of the Anti-Bullying Week 2021 is on the theme *“One Kind Word”*. Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying can have a significant impact on a child’s life well into adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone, where everyone is heard. Because together, we can end bullying.

At Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School we believe that good behaviour is necessary for Effective Teaching and Learning to take place and an outcome of education which society expects. All our pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 are expected to behave in a responsible manner both to themselves, to others and to their environment, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people at all times. We encourage everyone connected to our school – Pupil, Parent, Staff Colleague or Friend of our School – to remember our well established school motto – *Everyone Is Important In Our School*.

Parental involvement is encouraged at Harding Memorial Primary School. If you have a query or problem, in which you feel that School can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. Whilst class teachers may be available at the beginning of the school day to speak briefly to parents, **we would request that you telephone the School Office or report first to Mr Cumper to ensure that the Class Teacher is available to speak to you**. Our aim is to ensure that your child fulfils their potential and develops in a happy, confident and successful manner. In order to develop further the Home/School relationship we would hope that Parent/Guardians will continue to:

- ✓ Ensure regular attendance and to make sure that their children are not regularly **“Late for School”**
- ✓ Provide facilities for “On Line Homework to be satisfactorily completed and to contact the School Principal or Vice Principal immediately if you are experiencing difficulties with this issue
- ✓ Inform school of any changes at home which might affect your child’s attitude/behaviour at school. e.g. family illness, bereavement etc.

It is Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School policy that discipline should be based on promoting good behaviour as well as addressing unacceptable behaviour, with the underlying emphasis on respect for self, for other pupils and for adults. We aim to develop a caring, happy and disciplined environment that will be conducive to learning. When children behave in an unacceptable manner a clearly graded procedure is followed and, where serious misconduct is

concerned, Parent/Guardians will be involved either by receiving a written report from school or by being invited to come to discuss the matter with either the Class Teacher or Senior School Management. The Northern Ireland Anti Bullying Forum is available via:

www.endbullying.org.uk/anti-bullying-week



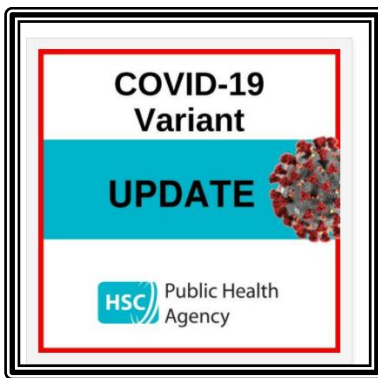
As part of Anti-Bullying Week 2021, Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School is excited to be participating in **Odd Socks Day on Monday 15th November 2021.** Odd Socks Day should be an opportunity to encourage our school pupils to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or for parents to buy expensive items.

➤ **We would simply like for all P1 – P7 children to wear odd socks to School on Monday 15th November 2021.**



Primary 2 – Primary 6 Parent Teacher Telephone Interviews will take place from the week starting Monday 8th November 2021. Please check your child's school bag and Seesaw for additional information.

➤ **Information about Primary 2 – Primary 6 Parental Interview Timetable Letters will be sent home this week with individual pupils.** These Parent & Teacher Conversations will provide an opportunity for you to be informed about your child's progress and performance in school and how you can assist your child in his or her learning. It will also give you an important opportunity to let the class teacher know of factors that may be affecting your child or concerns you may have. These interviews are normally timetabled to last ten minutes. If you have any questions or queries, please contact your child's Class Teacher via Seesaw.



I wish to highlight the Delta Variant – Key Symptoms which include

- ✓ A fever (high temp – 38 degrees or above)
- ✓ A new cough – this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- ✓ Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- ✓ Loss or change in your sense of smell or taste
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Aches and pains

Other uncommon symptoms of coronavirus may include:

- Sore throat
- Headaches
- Runny or stuffy noses
- Feeling sick or vomiting
- Diarrhoea

We continue to have a significant number of inquiries from parents as to whether a child should attend school or not with cold symptoms. The Guidance from the Department of Education advises schools and parents to focus on the **‘Big Three’ symptoms of Covid 19**, which we all know so well now – **A new, continuous cough, raised temperature and loss of taste and/or smell.**

However, it is important that we do not conflate every runny nose, sore throat, headache, blocked nose and sneeze etc. with Covid 19. In situations where you suspect your child may simply have a cold, a common sense approach is advised – keep them from school for a day or two, observe and see how things progress and go from there. If, at that point, one or all of the ‘Big Three’ symptoms develop or worsen, then you should probably seek further advice from your child’s doctor or PHA.

It’s a confusing time for all of us and as the term progresses, we will also in all likelihood, experience the winter stomach virus (Norovirus), causing vomiting and diarrhoea. **The instruction in cases of vomiting and/or diarrhoea is that your child should NOT return to school until 48 hours after the last symptom, even if they feel fine sooner than 48 hours.** We have previously had situations where parents did not, regrettably, follow this instruction, leading to large outbreaks in individual classes. If your child is sent to school and it becomes clear to staff that they have experienced vomiting or diarrhoea within the last 48 hours, **you will be requested to collect them from school.** For the good of everyone in our school community, please adhere to these instructions. We would like to thank all Parent/Guardians in advance for their support of School in this matter.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they’ve noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.



**Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School
is Celebrating World Kindness Day with a Non-Uniform Day
for P1 – P7 Pupils on Friday 12th November 2021**

We hope that our P1 – P7 pupils will wear their own clothes to school on Friday 12th November (No School Uniform). To make your donation of £1 please go to your SchoolMoney account where you will find a World Kindness Day payment. School will then forward a cheque for the amount collected to the NI Hospice. Your kindness is much appreciated not only by us but by those to whom even a *small* amount makes a *big* difference.

<https://www.nihospice.org/support-us/kindness-counts>

Kindness Counts has a very simple message. 'It's important to be kind and even the smallest act of kindness can make a positive difference in peoples lives'. That's why we're asking you to join with us and celebrate Kindness. By helping promote this positive message and hosting your own fundraising activity, you'll be showing your kindness to Northern Ireland Hospice, helping us raise the much-needed funds for those who depend on our lifeline care. We'd love for you to join with us and host your own fundraising activity on or around World Kindness Day on 13th November 2021 to help us raise the vital funds for those who need it most.



Halloween Video From Harding Memorial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dpP3jOiKqw>

Friday 22nd October 2021

Halloween Theme

Non Uniform Day



You can wear your Favourite Clothes or
Halloween Fancy Dress
to School on Friday 22nd October

✓ But please make sure that any Halloween Costumes that are worn
are **Not Too Scary** for other Children and the School Principal





We are pleased to confirm that Poppies will be on sale in Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School from **Friday 5th November 2021 onwards**. **There are also a limited number of Poppy Appeal items for sale** which are listed at the bottom of this letter. **They will be distributed on a First Come & First Served basis**. Poppy donation money should be sent in with each child to be given to their individual class teacher.

<p>Zip pull - Suggested Donation: 50p</p>	<p>Reflector - Suggested Donation: 50p</p>
<p>Silicone wristband - Suggested Donation: £1.00</p>	<p>Snap band - Suggested Donation: £1.50</p>