



Harding Memorial Primary School
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Tuesday 3rd November 2020

Dear Parent

Welcome back and we hope that everyone had a good break over the Halloween Vacation Period. There was considerable television and newspaper coverage about the decision by the NI Executive to close all schools for an extra week before Halloween and there is continued social media commentary about “future government decisions”. As School Principal I can confirm that Harding Memorial Primary School will continue to plan ahead for different scenarios whilst also trying to avoid the noise, bluster and endless speculation that can lead to uncertainty and anxiety for both parents, staff and pupils. 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 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 Primary School will be participating in the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF) **Anti-Bullying Week from Monday 16th November - Friday 20th November 2020**. The focus of the Anti-Bullying Week 2020 is on the theme “*United Against Bullying*”. 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 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. 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 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



As part of Anti-Bullying Week 2020, Harding Memorial Primary School is excited to be participating in **Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November 2020.** 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 costumes.

- **We would simply like for all P1 – P7 children to wear odd socks to School on Monday 16th November 2020.**


Parent Teacher Interviews

As Parent/Guardian, you would traditionally be offered two opportunities to come and meet your child's class teacher to discuss their progress in school, once during Term 1 (November), and once in Term 2 (March). However as you clearly self-evident "2020 has been very different to any traditional School Year". In light of the ongoing Covid19 restrictions, Harding Memorial Primary School has decided not to run parent-teacher interviews in Term 1 (Primary 7 Parent/Guardians) will be notified about separate organisational arrangements in due course by the School Principal).

Our intention at this stage is to offer a Parent - Teacher interview around the mid-point of the School Year, probably around week before the February Half Term break (week beginning Monday 8th February 2021), but this will be confirmed at a later date. This, along with the usual written Annual Report at the end of June 2021 should give a full picture of your child's progress in this school year. As always, if you have any current concerns about your child, you should not hesitate to contact either their Class Teacher or the School Office and your concerns will be speedily addressed. We greatly value our well established links between Home and School and trust that you will understand the reasoning behind this decision.

Parent Workshops

Being a parent can be challenging at times, especially now with Covid-19. Parenting NI supported by funding from the Public Health Agency CLEAR Fund are providing the following FREE ONLINE Workshops (see below) for parents who live in the BELFAST TRUST area. In addition Parentline NI is running FREE and confidential sessions on how parents can support their child's speech, language and communication development on Thursday 5th November 2020. For more information or to book a place call free 0808 8020 400



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Children's Emotional Health

We want our children to have positive emotional health & wellbeing. This workshop encourages parents to recognise the importance of their children's mental health, exploring how we can provide opportunities for emotional development & helping to equip parents with the skills to help improve their children's emotional health & wellbeing.

Wed 25th November
from 7 to 8.30 pm

To register: <http://bit.ly/CEH-25thNov>

Parenting in the Pandemic

Parenting within the current climate can be extremely challenging for families. This workshop explores these challenges for parents during Covid-19 and looks at the impact of stress on the parent and the effect this can have on the parent and children's emotional health and wellbeing.

Tues 10th November
from 10 to 11.30 am

To register: <http://bit.ly/PP-10thNov>



Helping Children Manage Change during the Pandemic

With the uncertainty during the pandemic and changes to family lives, this may be having an impact on our children. This workshop explores these changes, their effect on children & parents, and will support parents to develop strategies to help reduce the impact of change for both them and their child.

Tues 17th November
from 7 to 8.30 pm

To register: <http://bit.ly/HCMC-17thNov>

Supported by the PublicHealth Agency through the Clear Project



parentingni.org

Let me stress once again that if you or anybody in your household or anybody that you have been in contact with displays symptoms of Covid19, you must not attend school. You must also let the school know as soon as possible wither via Phone Message or E Mail (especially outside of normal school operating hours) if you or a member of your household returns a positive test result.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS	YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19	SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS	SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19
WHAT TO DO? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL- Book a COVID-19 test- Household self-isolates- Inform school immediately about test result	WHAT TO DO? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL- Inform school immediately about test result- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.	WHAT TO DO? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL- The household member should book a COVID-19 test- Household self-isolates- Inform school immediately about test result	WHAT TO DO? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL- Inform school immediately about test result
WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN? <p>Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.</p>	WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN? <p>Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.</p>	WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN? <p>Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.</p>	WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN? <p>Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.</p>