

# Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear P1 to P7 Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to the start of a new school term and we hope that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing Easter. Hopefully the weather will have allowed for you and your child/children to be outside and to have enjoyed the opportunity to play and relax. The Third Term is primarily an important teaching term and we seek your continued support with regard to pupil *attendance, punctuality, school uniform and behaviour*.

Parent/Guardians have been previously informed in Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School documentation of the clearly outlined school standards for pupils regarding jewellery and hairstyles. From a Health & Safety point of view we would also request that children do not wear "hoop ear-rings" to school. A stud would be considered appropriate. In addition, we request that children do not wear rings in school as the associated problems with the removal of a ring after a playground accident is a matter of concern for the school. Finally, please remember that extreme or attention-seeking hairstyles are not suitable for Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School and all Primary 1 to Primary 7 Parent/Guardians are asked to ensure that all such hairstyles are avoided.

Prior to Easter it became apparent to school that a number of children were regularly arriving **Late To School**. It is very important that each child arrives in school on time. When pupils arrive late it can make things difficult for everyone. The teacher needs to stop and wait for the latecomer to settle down and the rest of the class is disrupted. The latecomer who misses the first part of the day often feels uncomfortable and embarrassed. Perhaps even more importantly, they miss the opportunity to play and socialise with their friends in the playground prior to the commencement of school. 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). This is not a problem and in such 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.**
- **School will continue to monitor individual pupil attendance and punctuality and parents may be contacted individually to discuss both low attendance and erratic morning attendance.**

## Term 3 After School Clubs

In Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School we aim to give our pupils the opportunity to further and widen their interests and once again in Term 3 we are offering an extensive range of After School activities. These clubs form an important part of our extended school life and are only possible because of the support of the various External Organisations associated with our School.

- **We are happy to report that the following After School Activity Clubs will be operating in School for pupils in Term 3 for Pupils:**

<b>Monday After School Clubs = Art Club, Table Tennis Club and Bible Club starting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 (4 sessions only due to two Monday Bank Holidays in May)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ After School Art Club at 2.00pm – 3.00pm (P2/P3) and 3.00pm – 4.00pm (P4/P7)</li> <li>➤ After School Table Tennis Club at 3.00pm – 4.00pm (P4/P7)</li> <li>➤ After School Bible Club at 3.00pm – 4.00pm (P4/P7)</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday After School Clubs = Football Club and Art Club starting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 (6 sessions)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ After School Football Session at 2.00pm – 3.00pm (P2/P3) and 3.00pm – 4.00pm (P4/P7)</li> <li>➤ After School Art Session at 2.00pm – 3.00pm (P1)</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday After School Clubs = Bricks 4 Kidz Club and Handball Club starting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (6 Sessions)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ After School Bricks 4 Kidz at 2.00pm – 3.00pm (P3/P4) and 3.00pm – 4.00pm (P5/P7)</li> <li>➤ After School Handball at 2.00pm – 3.00pm (P3/P4) and 3.00pm – 4.00pm (P5/P7)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday After School Clubs = Spanish Club and Basketball Club starting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (6 Sessions)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ After School Spanish Club Session 1 at 2.00pm – 3.00pm (P2/P3) and 3.00pm – 4.00pm (P4/P7)</li> <li>➤ After School Basketball Club Session 1 at 3.00pm – 4.00pm (P4/P7)</li> </ul>

- **Full information about these After School Clubs will be e-mailed on Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> April**
- **Booking will “Go Live” via School Money on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 4.00pm.**

Some clubs were over-subscribed both in Term 1 and Term 2 and inevitably some children and parents were disappointed that their child/children were unsuccessful in gaining a place. **As Parent/Guardians have been previously informed - places in the After School Clubs will be allocated on a First Come and First Served Basis via the School Money Booking System.**

School would like to make very clear that we always endeavour to give Parent/Guardians equality of opportunity when applying for a place in these After School Clubs. However, on School Money it's not possible to limit participation in After School Clubs to one activity per child. In addition, it should be acknowledged that the organisation of these After School Clubs is a considerable organisational exercise that requires significant time from School Office Staff. I would like to thank both Mrs Shannon and Mrs Mackey for their continued hard work, dedication and patience when dealing with this administrative process.

In endeavouring to ensure the safety of our children it is important that Parent/Guardians are aware of the finishing times for all these after school activities and that arrangements are particularly clear for the collection of our youngest pupils at the end of After School Activities. **In particular, we would hope that all Parent/Guardians would be aware of the necessity to be punctual for P2 & P3 Pupil Pick-Up Times as these pupils will not be dismissed until an appropriate adult arrives at 3.00pm.** In addition, we would request that all Parent/Guardians please check which dates the Monday to Thursday After School Clubs will be taking place as they have been occasions in the past when a child has not been collected on time due to a Parent/Guardian forgetting that the After School Club is not on that particular date. Finally, it should be noted that all children attending the various After School Clubs are expected to behave in accordance with established school rules. If a child **misbehaves** during these After School Club Activities they will be asked to leave the Club and wait at the School Office whilst a Parent/Guardian is being contacted and told to collect them from School. **In such circumstances this Child will then no longer be allowed to participate in this After School Club**

## 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 important organisational arrangements.

## Positive Behaviour Scheme - Harding Hero for Cooperation

The “Harding Hero” Scheme is used to reinforce and promote Positive Behaviour amongst all the pupils at our school. The aim of this scheme is to create an atmosphere in which the pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of self-esteem and an awareness of the needs of others. At the end of each behaviour theme period a pupil from P1 to P7 will receive a behaviour certificate which will be displayed on the Harding Hero Noticeboard. The new theme for the Harding Hero Scheme is **“Cooperation”** eg: Working together as a team, Sharing play equipment, Helping people in your class and Building relationships. We hope that all Parent/Guardians will assist us in the project by reinforcing the importance of children demonstrating Cooperation both inside and outside of our school environment.

## 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 this current very changeable weather 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. 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.**



As many of you may be aware, the incidences of dog fouling on the pavement outside the main entrance to our School has been a major cause for concern. We have been in contact with Belfast City Council and appreciate their support addressing this very challenging issue. A pilot scheme will hopefully soon be in operation and is intended to provide specific dog waste bins in each of the four quadrants of the city, **in a hope that these bins along key routes will help to send a message and challenge the mindset of dog walkers who do not clean up after their dog.** This pilot will rely heavily on data to strategically place bins in areas where dog fouling is persistent. As such we would request your continued support with this pilot in specifying areas around school that are problematic. This can be done anonymously: <https://online.belfastcity.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling/default.aspx>

# May Fair

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**10.00am – 12.00pm**

- The P.T.F.A. May Fair will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the grounds of Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School
- Tombola, Wet Sponge Stall, Penalty Kick Challenge, Cakes, Bran Tub, & many more attractions to see and join in with at the P.T.F.A. May Fair.
- Please join us for our P.T.F.A. May Fair as we will have lots of fun events for the Whole Family to enjoy. Further information will be sent home in due course.