

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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Wednesday 12th January 2022

In Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School we continue to respond to the Covid Pandemic as best we can. It is well known that transmission of COVID at present is very high in the community and within households and it has been well publicised that there are Staff Shortages in all Schools throughout Northern Ireland. Substitute Teachers are in high demand and there is a limited supply. Given the rate of the transmission of Omicron, we fully expect to have a disrupted and problematic term ahead. Last term presented many challenges, particularly in covering Non-Teaching roles and finding Substitute Teachers. This may not have been obvious to many Parents but there were days when we were operating with six to nine members of staff absent.

Nevertheless I would ask all Parent/Guardians to be as positive and reassuring to your children as possible while Covid continues to influence so much of our school routine. I do not want for our pupils to feel unduly stressed and worried about Covid as is extremely important for our children to be school learning together both for their social and emotional wellbeing as well as their day to day Learning. Please be assured our School Staff continue to follow guidance re; cleaning, ventilation, consistent groups etc throughout the day in school, as part of our school routine and our Staff work tirelessly to ensure that your children feel safe in school and are taught in an encouraging, positive environment.

We do however need to responsibly work together and pupils with the following symptoms should not be sent to school:

➤ A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

OR

➤ A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

OR

➤ A loss of or change in sense of smell or taste

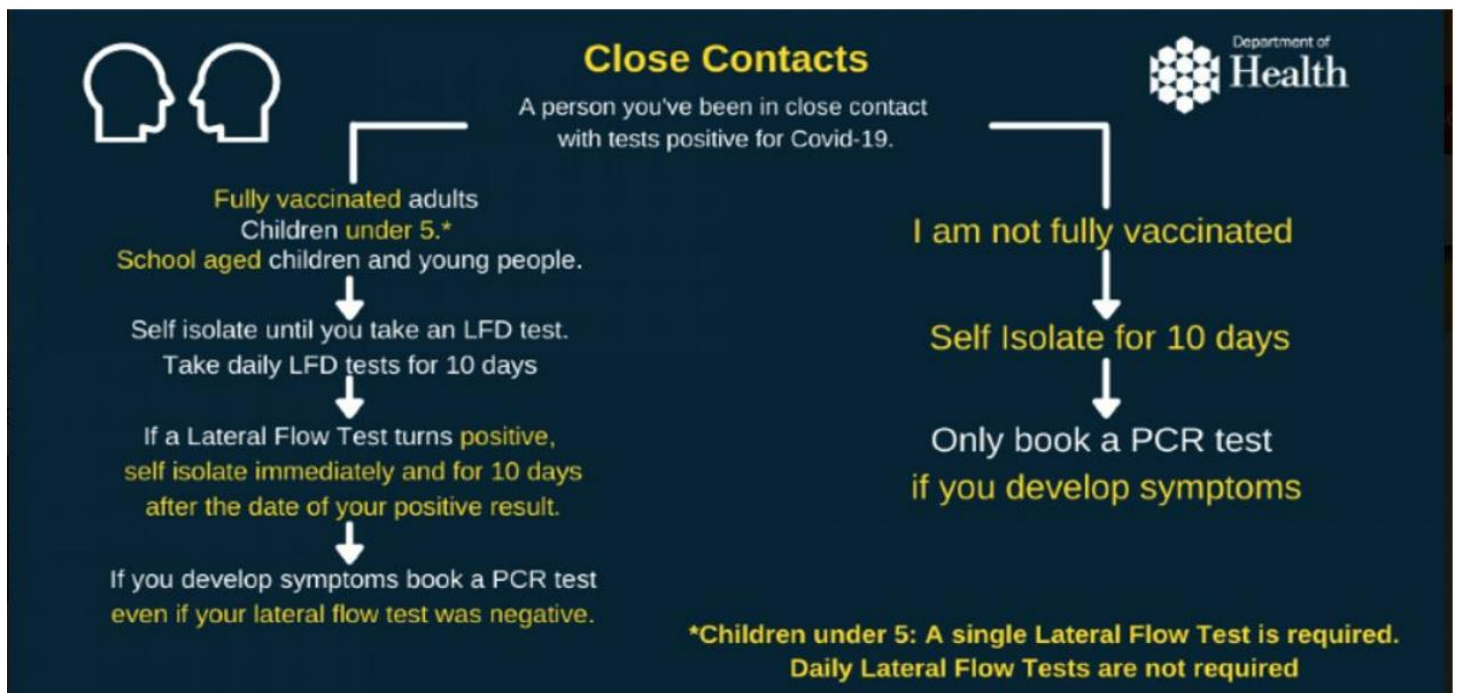
The NI Executive has also announced a change to the rules on self-isolation for positive cases, reducing the period from 10 days to seven, providing the individual has negative LFD results on both days 6 and 7 with tests taken 24 hours apart.

As the Second Term unfolds, we will of course seek to do our best and be as flexible as we can. However, in the absence of being able to find "Sub Cover", **there may come a point when it will be necessary to close down a class and return to Remote Learning for a period of time.** This will be a last resort and a decision which won't be taken lightly. It may also be necessary to communicate with you at short notice. We ask for your patience and consideration as we strive to do our best during these most challenging of times. As far as possible, it is planned that lessons will continue in school, but should a class or classes have to close for short periods, e.g. Staff Shortages, plans are in already place for remote learning to be provided via SEESAW.

All pupils should have their login details but please contact either myself or your child's class teacher for further information as needed. Where computer or internet access is an issue, some

support may be available – please contact me directly. Children who are ill will not be expected to do school work and obviously every effort will be made to support them to catch up when they are fit to return to school. Thank you for your continued support and please feel free to contact me should you wish any clarification of the information provided above.

Finally please remember that the PHA advice regarding school absence with a stomach virus (vomiting and/or diarrhoea) is that children should not return until 48 hours after their last symptom, even if they feel well. As I have said before, a stomach virus can do real damage in a class if children are returned to school too soon, so please follow the advice for the good of the whole school community



You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok

Users can watch musical clips, record clips (it includes lots of lip synching and dancing), edit them and add special effects. You need to be aware that some of the videos may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view. There is also the risk of strangers contacting your child so make sure you have set up the appropriate settings. If your child is using TikTok then we recommend setting the account as private (this is the default setting for users under 16 since Jan 2021). Even with a private account, your child’s profile information such as their photo and bio are still visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not adding personal information (e.g. location, age and phone numbers) to this area. As with similar apps, there is the ability to report and block other users so ensure your child knows how to use these features:

- <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem>
- <https://support.tiktok.com/en/using-tiktok/followers-and-following/blocking-the-users>

Is your child playing Fortnite?

It is rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age. It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Fortnite does include a chat facility, which adds further risks. There are different versions of Fortnite, including a free-to-play Battle Royale game (although money can be spent within the game) where up to 100 players compete against each other. Fortnite contains voice and text chat and due to the nature of the game, your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Please ensure your child knows how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour. Fortnite includes several parental controls to help you make it a safer environment for your child including disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings. Also please remember to set up age-appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on as well.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/fortnite-chapter-2-battle-royale-parental-controls-guide/>

Applications for Primary 1 at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School September 2022

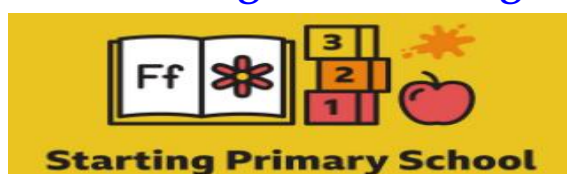
Children who are 4 years old on or before the 1st of July must begin their primary education from the beginning of the school year following their 4th birthday. **Children born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 will be due to start Primary One in September 2022 as they will be of compulsory school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





SEEKING AFTER-SCHOOL RELIEF CLEANING STAFF

The Education Authority (EA) Cleaning Service wish to create a pool of temporary cover for short-term staff shortages of after-school relief cleaning staff.

As these roles are for urgent cover, you may be asked to work with little notice given; this could be a few days or even a few hours' notice.

If you are available to work afternoons, Monday to Friday, we can offer you:

- A competitive pay rate of £9.69 per hour
- An opportunity to work for EA, across a variety of areas
- On the job training

To register your interest please scan the QR code below on your phone or tablet or visit:

www.eani.org.uk/reliefcleaning-staff-register-interest



Please note, an EA member of staff will contact those who have registered their interest for a short telephone interview when there is a position available.

If you have any queries, please email: cleaning@eani.org.uk



Visitors Covid Policy Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School

We have an obligation to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of everyone at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School. We hold the prime responsibility for ensuring the safety of our pupils, staff and volunteers, parents and carers, guests and visitors, contractors and delivery services. We are therefore implementing the following regulations to help ensure that we maintain a COVID-secure environment for all.

Before arrival at Our School:

- Question whether your meeting could be facilitated virtually. If it can, please avoid visiting.
- **If not, you must make an appointment with the person you wish to see - no ad hoc visitors will be admitted.**
- **Please call the school office to make arrangements.**
- All those requiring an appointment will be asked if they or anyone in their household is displaying symptoms of COVID-1. If the answer is YES - then you must not visit the school.

On arrival At Our School:

- ✓ All visitors must sign in on arrival and give their contact phone number to enable visitors to be tracked and traced should the need arise.
- ✓ Visitors must wash and/or sanitise your hands when you arrive and as necessary during your visit.
- ✓ Visitors must carry a mask or face covering and wear it as required.
- ✓ Visitors must maintain a safe distance (at least one metre, and ideally two metres) from other people at all times.
- ✓ When you are met by one of our members of staff, they will not offer a handshake as a greeting – please do not be offended by this.
- ✓ Visitors are to remain two metres apart from all other staff and pupils, when moving around the site and, if taking a seat during your visit, you should be positioned 2m apart from those in the same room.
- ✓ If you wish to use the toilet facilities while on-site, again a member of staff will direct to where you need to go. Please ensure you follow our guidelines for wiping down all surfaces touched using the anti-bacterial wipes provided before leaving the facilities.
- ✓ Please refrain from touching surfaces around the school during your visit.
- ✓ If you remain within school for more than one hour, please ensure you wash your hands regularly.
- **Parents & carers should come into school buildings only when strictly necessary, by appointment, and ideally only one (unless for example, an interpreter or other support is required).**
- **Any such meetings should take place at a safe distance (and so the use of small offices may not be suitable).**