

# Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



Principal: S Cumper  
info@hardingmemorial.belfast.ni.sch.uk



105 Cregagh Road  
Belfast BT6 8PZ  
Telephone: 028 90458040  
Fax: 028 90460917

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School traditionally participates in **Safer Internet Day** which will take place this year on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. This year celebrations and learning will be based around the theme: **“Too good to be true? Keeping yourself and others safe from scams online”**.

Clearly the Internet is a unique and exciting resource that can bring the world into the classroom by giving children access to a global network of educational resources. Indeed, the Internet has been described as being like a “vast city” with an exciting variety of places to visit; with entertainment areas, educational areas and people to meet. But there are undoubtedly areas that we certainly would not want Primary School Aged Children to visit.

The digital world of social media is a fast changing landscape with new applications and social networks multiplying. As a parent, you will want to ensure that your child is safe and that you are well enough informed to support their use of any digital appliances. Therefore, we felt it would be very beneficial for all of our children to follow these “SMART TIPS”

➤ *SMART Tips from: – Helping your parents be cool about the Internet, produced by: Northern Area Child Protection Committees*

**S**

**Secret** - Always keep your name, address, mobile phone number and password private – it’s like giving out the keys to your home!

**M**

**Meeting** someone you have contacted in cyberspace can be dangerous. You must only do so with your parent’s/carer’s permission, and then only when they can be present.

**A**

**Accepting** e-mails or opening files from people you don’t really know or trust can get you into trouble – they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

**R**

**Reliable-** Someone on-line may be lying and not be who they say they are. Stick to the public areas in chat rooms and if you feel uncomfortable, simply get out of there!

**T**

**Tell** your parent or carer if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried.

## Facebook/WhatsApp/Snapchat and Other Social Networking Sites Guidance

### ➤ Why have we included this information in this letter?

Although the terms and conditions of using Facebook/WhatsApp/Snapchat state that the **user must be older than 11 years of age e.g in Secondary School** we know that there are some children within Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School who are using such social media networking sites. However, if a child at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School has this type of Social Media Account then they have already **broken the terms of the site** as they must have uploaded false information about their age. At Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School **we do not condone the use of any other social networking site by any of our Primary School Pupils. In HMIPS all** part of the School Pastoral Care policy we will continue to inform parent/guardian of any issues that we become aware of in school with regard to the inappropriate use of social networking sites.

### ➤ What can parents do to help?

## **Firstly, Primary-Age children should not be on these sites.**

However, if you wish for your child/children to use this technology we **would strongly urge every parent/guardian to talk to their child/children about their use of the internet.**

For example, please check with your child/children:

- ❖ What are they posting online?
- ❖ Who can see it?
- ❖ Are they sharing their age, address, e-mail or phone number on Facebook?
- ❖ Are they inappropriately asking to become friends with teachers and other staff members? We as a school do not permit any form of ICT or modern communication technologies (e-mail, texting, Facebooking or the use of any other social networking site) to be used as a means of communication about school matters between staff and pupils or staff and parents.
- ❖ For primary aged children it is more appropriate to use a cartoon photo as their personal photo than an actual photo
- ❖ It is important to help your child to understand that they should not post any photo they would not wish their mum, dad or granny to see. They should also understand that even if they are careful about privacy settings – their electronic ‘friends’ might not be (and that means that others can ‘take’ or ‘harvest’ photos from their web space if they are not stored privately).

### A Final Point To Remember:

Many people do share information online without thinking about the possible consequences! Once information is shared online, it is very hard (often impossible) to remove. The following link may also be helpful in deciding how to pitch your safe talk with your child(ren):

**[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)**

***Gaming is extremely popular with children and young people. It can be difficult to keep up with the latest games and how they work. Here we take a look at key safety concerns and how you can support happier, safer gaming for your child.***

**[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming)**

School Emergency Closure on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

We hope that all school stakeholders and their loved ones have stayed safe and secure during the recent disruption caused by Storm Eowyn. We would like to remind all Parent/Guardians of our organisational arrangements for Emergency School Closure Situations. **We have a system in school to enable us to text parents to inform them if school is closed for any emergency situation.** In the case of extreme weather conditions, any decision whether or not to close the school will be taken as early as possible. Parent/Guardians were notified about the School Closure on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 as soon as the School had received Formal Closure Notification from the Education Authority. In the event of disruption caused by inclement weather such as heavy snow our prime concern must always be the safety of the pupils and staff. We will also endeavour to list any School Closure Information on the BBC News N.I. Website or the School Website

- **If you do not receive any closure information from the school, please assume that “Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School is “Open As Usual” for all Primary 1 to Primary 7 Pupils.**
- If anyone received a new phone for Christmas and has changed their number, please ensure that you let the School Office have the number immediately, in case we need to contact you urgently. This is particularly important during the cold weather as in the event of the school being closed due to bad weather we will use text message numbers.
- Finally, can you please ensure that all Adult Contact Mobile Phones have the **Answer Machine Facility** in operation to enable school to leave a Phone Message in an Emergency.

#### **Primary 7 Participation in the Peace Proms at the SSE Arena**

We are pleased to inform Parent/Guardians that our Primary 7 Pupils have been given the wonderful opportunity to participate in the “Peace Proms” Project at the SSE Arena on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The Peace Proms is a music education resource for Primary Schools which culminates in a large-scale performance for choirs and orchestra at iconic venues throughout the USA Ireland and Northern Ireland. The programme promotes “peace through music” and engages almost 35,000 children from 600 schools giving them the opportunity to sing in a large-scale production with a choir of up to 3,000 and a full symphony youth orchestra. We are confident that our evening performance at the SEE Arena will be an inspirational and thrilling experience for Choirs, Teachers, Parents and Audiences alike. The Peace Proms 2025 Concert will be conducted by internationally acclaimed Maestro Greg Beardsell and the programme promises to be an epic and thrilling celebration of youth, live music, and sheer talent with everything from rocking vocal and violin solos and majestic Bagpipe and Uilleann pipe melodies to powerful pop and peace anthems. The Peace Proms 2024 Concert is intended to bring a shared love for music and passion for peace to ever-greater numbers of children, schools, communities and live audiences throughout the world. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Miss Cullen for her professional expertise in arranging for Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School to participate in this exciting and innovative educational event.



As many of you may be aware, the incidences of dog fouling on the pavement outside the main entrance to our School has previously been a significant area of concern. We would like to thank all Parent/Guardians for their co-operation and support monitoring this challenging issue.



## PTFA Fundraising Event

### Love Bug Beetle Drive



You are invited to the PTFA Love Bug Beetle Drive at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm in the school assembly hall.



The tickets for this event cost £2 per person. The admission price includes Tea/coffee & biscuits plus juice and sweets for the children. There are raffle tickets available on the night to win a fantastic chocolate bouquet. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please be aware there are a maximum number of 66 tickets available.



Tickets will be available from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January on the school money app Eduspot. The tickets will be sent home with your children once payment has been received.

Best wishes

PTFA - HMIPS