

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



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Dear Parent/Guardian

The first month back at school has been very busy and it has been fantastic for both myself and Mrs Baird as School Principal to observe how well our pupils from P1 to P7 have settled into their school routines with both class lessons and behaviour going well throughout the school. We appreciate all the hard work that our Parent/Guardians perform behind the scenes to help their child/children to be prepared for school. However, we are also aware that it is not only our school children who require support from time to time. **We are also here to help you as Parent/Guardians.** If your family is experiencing difficulties at home Harding Memorial will always try to provide additional support at school and we understand that you are not always able to share details and that's okay. If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning or weekend, **then please email or phone Mr Cumper/Mrs Baird to let us know to "keep a wee eye on them"**. Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let me know that your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day. Also in these bleak economic times, we as a school understand how challenging life is for so many people at the moment. You know your own child/children. You know what works for them and your family. Please focus on the health and happiness of your family and please be assured that you are not alone. Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School is here to help everyone in our local school community.

Red Theme Day - Thank You

On Friday 27th September 2024 Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School participated in a Red Theme Day in aid of support of Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI who are the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to blood cancer research. Their mission is to improve survival rates and quality of life for all blood cancer patients by supporting clinicians, scientists and students researching these diseases. I would like to congratulate all the pupils from P1 to P7 for their excellent participation in our "Red Theme Day" and thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the charity collection. We have raised the fantastic amount of £243.50 for this vital organisation.

Primary 1 – Primary 7 School Curriculum Zoom Meetings

We place great value on opportunities for Home/School liaison and we would like to express our gratitude to those Parent/Guardian who were able to attend our Primary 1 – Primary 7 Parent Zoom Curriculum Meetings in September. We were greatly encouraged by the wonderful level of interest and support, evidenced by great online attendance, and we trust that everyone who came along found the information shared to be interesting and that it will be beneficial in supporting your child's education as we progress through the current 2024/2025 School Year. We believe that these type of meetings are very beneficial for

both Parents and Teaching Staff in helping to improve the communication between Home and School which accordingly can only be of benefit to every child at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School. I would particularly like to thank our School Teachers for being able to facilitate these virtual meetings outside of their normal working school day. The continued dedication and commitment of all the Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff in Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School is a source of inspiration to myself as Principal of *this wonderful wee school*.

In order to build upon this very important relationship we would like to give P1 – P6 Parent/Guardians advance notice of the **Parent/Guardian & Teacher Consultation that will take place on the week beginning Monday 11th November**. Further information about this process will be sent home with your child and communicated via Seesaw in due course but it should be noted that it is the intention of school that these Parent Teacher Interviews will take place using School Cloud which is a secure video facility (similar to Zoom or Teams). We have previously used this software with Parent/Guardians and we were pleased with the outcomes of this process. It has also proved beneficial for many working parents in that they do not have to ask out of work to attend. The Primary 1 – Primary 6 Parent Teacher Consultations that will take place shortly after the Half Term are intended to 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 should 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. We hope that all parents will be able to avail of this opportunity to communicate with their child's class teacher, especially those parents who had been unable to attend their child's Parent Curriculum Zoom Meetings earlier in September 2024. **Please note that Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School will close all week for all P1 – P7 Pupils at 1.00pm during the week starting Monday 11th November 2024.**

Positive Behaviour Scheme - Harding Hero for Friendship

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 Primary 1 to Primary 7 will receive a behaviour certificate which will be displayed on the Harding Hero Noticeboard. The theme for the current Harding Hero Scheme is **Friendship** which we can by demonstrated by ***listening to each other, by taking turns, by trusting each other and by sorting out conflicts sensibly***. We hope that all parents will assist us in the project by reinforcing the importance of children demonstrating **Friendship** both inside and outside out of school.

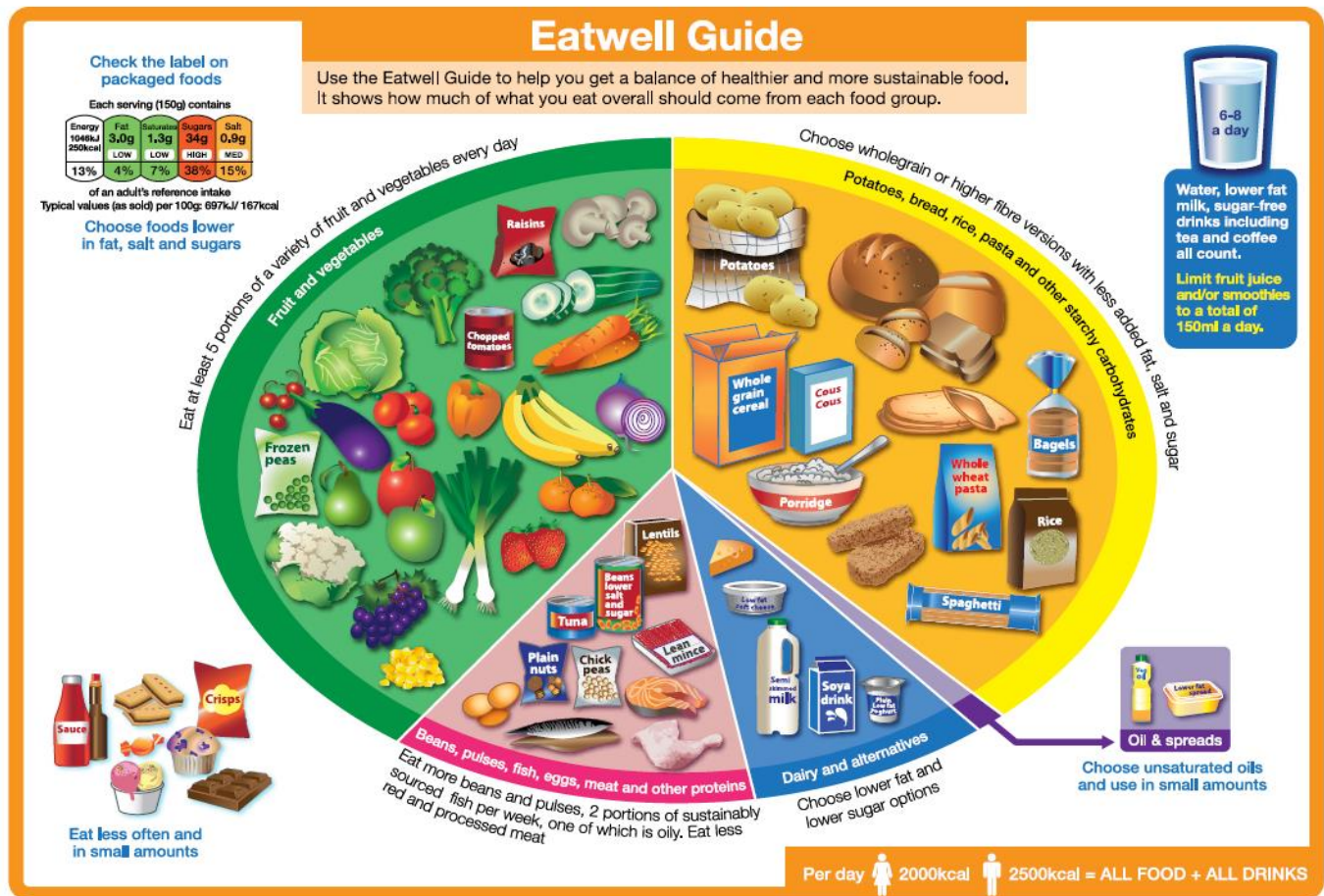
Healthy Lifestyles at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School

We encourage pupils to choose healthy options with regard to their diet and lifestyle. We actively encourage all children to drink milk or water in school and to bring in a healthy snack for break. Children are allowed to have access to water in class. **We would request**

that all water bottles are clearly labelled to avoid confusion in class. Recent Educational research has indicated that a pupil's concentration in class is enhanced by proper diet and nutrition. We would therefore ask you to be ever mindful of this when preparing lunch breaks or snacks for your child to eat in school. A leaflet for parents of Primary School children has been produced by the Public Health Agency. It contains practical tips for parents, carers and children on how to pack an appetising, healthy lunchbox. You can view the leaflet via the following weblink below:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/leaflets-parents>

We hope that the document link below will be of benefit to all HMIPS Parent/Guardians.



Source: Public Health England in association with the Welsh government, Food Standards Scotland and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

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Please Leave All Toys At Home

We would seek to remind parents of our established school policy which is “**Please No Toys In School Except For Show and Tell**”. Each teacher will inform their class of their Show and Tell Day. The reason for this policy is that we are worried that a child's toy may get misplaced or damaged. We would formally request that **all toys are left at home**, including stuffed animals as when children bring in toys from home, they become distracted and the other children do as well. This toy description would include a wide range of items such as Collecting Card Games, Miniature Action Figures, Dolls and Lego etc.

School Dinner Administration

As you should be aware School has in recent years purchased a cashless system – School Money - that is intended to “make life easier” for Parent/Guardians when making payments for school expenses such as dinner money, milk and school trips etc. Previously all these

payments had to be paid either by cash or cheque but can now be paid online with your debit or credit card. We believe that this payment system benefits both us as a school and you as Parent/Guardians. Not only can you be able to pay for items from the comfort of your own home but you are also able to access your account at any time to see if there is anything you need to pay for. We have been using **SchoolMoney** within HMIPS for several years and we believe that it has enabled our school to have a more streamlined, cost-effective and efficient payment system in a secure and safe environment for Parent/Guardians. **However it is also a system that requires Parent/Guardian Co-operation with Time Deadlines.** We would like to remind Parent Guardians about the importance about following agreed procedures in relation to the booking of School Dinners which are listed below:

- ✓ **Please book onto the SchoolMoney system for any school meals required for next week when you receive the message that the payment is live.**
- ✓ We understand how busy a week can be, **therefore Parent/Guardians will now have the opportunity to Book School Meals from Thursdays 12pm to Sundays 9pm.**
- ✓ Hopefully this will ease pressure on just booking school dinners over the weekends.
- ✓ **The link for booking will be available until 9pm on Sunday evenings.** Please book for the week before then to ensure school meals are available for the week ahead.
- ✓ **If there any days not booked before the 9pm cut-off, a packed lunch will be required instead.**

Whilst Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School can display flexibility in a number of administration areas within School, **the deadline booking for School Dinners is not extendable.** We appreciate the co-operation and understanding of all School Parent/Guardians with this issue.



Flu and Sickness Advice for Parents/Guardians/Carers with Children at School

Harding Memorial appreciates the ongoing support of Parent/Guardians when addressing the issue of "illness" in our School, especially when pupils are ill prior to the start of the school day. Our experience is that in many such situations, pupils have to be sent home again, **so we would encourage a "sick child" to be kept at home.** A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and is likely to spread the illness to other children and staff and obviously the school would wish to avoid the spread of illness within the confined community of a school classroom. Most people, including children, will recover within a few days. Resting and taking over the counter preparations such as Paracetamol will help. We would request that all children with flu-like symptoms should stay at home, so as not to infect others, until feeling better.