



End of Year Letter – June 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Despite the lack of sunshine and summer weather, we have reached the end of the summer term and the start of the summer holidays. We have had another very busy and successful year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the part you have played in that success. Your enthusiasm, support and help this year has been invaluable.

Please read the following letter as it contains important information for next year. Throughout the summer you can also keep checking the website: www.robertson.ie. I hope to keep it updated during the holidays.

Dates

Last day of term	Tuesday 28 th June (School closes at 12.00 noon – Fun Night @ 6 p.m.)
School re-opens	Thursday 1 st September
Half-Term	School will be closed for the week beginning Monday 31 st October
Christmas Holidays	Last day of term – Thursday 22 nd December (closing at 12.00 noon)

Class Arrangements for September

The classes in school next year will be arranged as follows:

Miss Henderson:	Junior Infants & Senior Infants (16)
Miss Bustard:	First, Second & Third Class (23)
Mrs. Somerville:	Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Class (16)

Infant Day

Until Friday 9th September, the Junior Infants will go home at 12.30 p.m. From Monday 12th September, the Junior Infant Day ends at 2.00 p.m. Senior Infants will go home at 3.00 p.m. Thank you to all our Junior Infant parents this year for their prompt pick ups at 2.00 p.m. It has made a huge difference to the other children in the room and I know that their Senior Infants will benefit greatly from that extra hour of attention next year.

Book Money

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their book money. It would be much appreciated if all book money was paid before the end of term. We have tried very hard this year to ensure that the book rental costs have not increased. Thank you also to the children who have taken such good care of their books this year.

Volunteers

We were fortunate to have many volunteers in the past year who gave of their time to help with activities in school, in particular Jackie McGlinchy for helping us every week. Thank you.

For the new school year, we are again looking for people who would like to help. In particular, those who would like to do some craft work/cooking etc. would be very welcome.

If you feel you would like to help out in any way, please let me know.

Uniform

Please ensure the children have black shoes to wear with their burgundy uniforms. Thank you for your support of this during the year.

On P.E. days, the children should wear their navy P.E. sweatshirts and plain navy tracksuit bottoms (**no stripes or logos please**). Please return payment for uniform items as soon as possible.

Please make sure all uniform items are clearly labelled. There are several jumpers and sweatshirts at school which have not been claimed by anyone.

We are also asking that, for Health and Safety reasons, jewellery is not worn at school. (Exceptions to this rule are tasteful stud earrings and wristwatches).

Sponsored Walk

At the time of writing the total raised by the School Sponsored Walk is approximately €1500. Could I please have any outstanding money returned to school as soon as possible? Thank you for your support of this event.

Attendance/Absences

The average attendance in school this year was 97%. Your help in ensuring that appointments etc. are arranged outside of school hours when possible and bringing children into school before and after appointments is much appreciated.

If a child is not coming to school, please ring or send a note with a sibling.

Please note that parents are legally obliged to provide a written explanation for children's absences.

As Principal, I have a legal obligation to report all children who are absent for more than 20 days in a school year and also those children whose attendance is erratic or giving the school cause for concern, whether they have missed 20 days or not.

Thank you

To all of these people who have worked or helped in and around school this year – the **teaching staff** for their excellent work all year, **Mrs. Cathrena Duncan** for her work in our office, **Mrs. Muriel Mitchell** for continuing to keep the school spotless, **Mr. Ezra Mitchell** for the many jobs he has done for us around the building, **Mr. John Barnett** for his help with too many things to mention but in particular his work in the garden, **Mr. Noel Given** for his work in the school grounds and in the building all year, **the P.T.A.** for their work this year and to the members of **our Board of Management** for their help and support. We are very grateful for all you do for us. Thank you!

Congratulations & Best Wishes

Congratulations to all those who have had new additions to their families this year.

Education Cuts

One of the casualties of the the Government's Education Cuts this year is Mrs McMahon, who has been working in school for the past academic year. I would like to thank her for the enormous contribution she has made to the education of the children in our school this year. Unfortunately it would appear that from September, the gap left by Mrs McMahon will have to be filled by the remaining teaching staff – this will affect the time and support available for all of the children. I do not believe that this will be the last change we see to the provision of support for children with Special Needs, so it is worth bearing in mind, that whether your child avails of that support or not, all children in our school are adversely affected by the decrease in their class teacher's time and attention.

Head Lice

We have not had too many outbreaks of head lice this year and we would love to keep it that way so can I please ask that every child is checked and treated over the holidays? The chemists have a range of shampoos that will successfully clear up any infestation.

Please do not send your child to school if you suspect they may have head lice and please bear in mind that it is very frustrating for everyone if untreated heads are re-infecting other children on a regular basis.

End of Year Show

Thank you for your support of the End of Year Show – you were a great audience. We hope you enjoyed the evening.

6th Class

Good luck to all of our 6th Class pupils as they leave to start at their new schools.

So, to...

Flo, who is starting the Royal and Prior Comprehensive School, Raphoe

Lauren, Emma, Nicole and **Matthew** who are starting Coláiste Cholmchille, Ballyshannon

David, Leona and **Amy** who are starting the Abbey Vocational School, Donegal

...we send our very best wishes and will look forward to hearing how you are getting on.



Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, safe and enjoyable summer holiday. Please take the time to talk to and play with your children. They will be all grown up before you know it. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Somerville
Principal