

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday, in spite of the weather.

Please take time to read the following information. A list of this year's school dates is also included for your convenience.

School Hours/Supervision

The official school hours are 9.20 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Supervision is not provided for the children before 9.00 a.m. or after 3.15 p.m.

Please do not drop children early as there may be nobody on the premises until 9.00 a.m.

Welcome

A very warm welcome is extended to our 8 new Junior Infants. We especially welcome those families who are new to us. We hope they will quickly feel very much at home and we look forward to seeing them at all our school events and meetings.

The Junior Infants will be going home at 12.30 p.m. until Friday 9th September and then at 2 p.m. for the remainder of the school year.

Thank you

On behalf of everyone in school, I would again like to thank Noel Given and John Barnett for their continued work in the school grounds over the summer holidays. Our thanks also to Ezra and Muriel for all the cleaning tasks and odd jobs that were done in the building while we were on holiday.

Liaison with Teachers

We are always happy to answer questions or discuss concerns. Please send a note, write in the children's homework diaries or arrange a convenient time to meet with us. A Parent/Teacher Meeting will be arranged later in the year.

Footwear/Uniform

Please make sure that black shoes are worn with the burgundy uniforms. They look much neater and are much healthier for the children's feet. Trainers may be sent in for playtimes.

P.E. uniform should be worn on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

May I also take this opportunity to remind you that for safety reasons, only stud earrings are allowed at school.

Correct uniform is to be worn at all times.

Healthy Break and Lunch Policy

In line with our Healthy School Guidelines we would ask that children bring only healthy food and drink to school for break and lunch. Please do not send fizzy drinks, chocolate bars, biscuits, sweets or crisps. **One small treat** may be brought on Fridays (please do not send more than one small treat e.g. a fun-size bar.) We will be reviewing the 'Friday treat' policy later in the term. During the year, healthy eating is also covered in curriculum work.

Absence from school

Notes are required for all school absences and should be sent to your child's teacher. I am required by law to keep a copy of these notes for the Education Welfare Officer.

Please make contact with the school on the first morning of a child's absence, either by phone or in a note/message sent with another child (please bear in mind that the children often forget to tell us or pass on messages!) I am required to report children who are absent for more than 20 days in total during the school year or children whose attendance is erratic or giving us cause for concern.

School Records/Text-a-Parent

If there have been any changes to your contact details, especially contact telephone numbers, could you please fill in a new contact form and return it to the office. We will be continuing to use Text-a Parent this year. Please check with the Office that we have your correct number and that you have been receiving texts.

School Website

I will continue to make sure that the website is updated frequently. Our website address is www.robertson.ie. Please take the time to visit it. It contains letters, dates of events, all school policies/plans, samples of children's work and other resources which you might find useful.

In line with our Internet Policy, we may publish children's photographs on the website but at no time will children's names accompany their photographs. Please speak to me if you have any concerns about Internet Safety.

Head Lice

We had a fairly lice-free year last year – thank you all very much for your vigilance. We would like to keep it that way so may I remind you that long hair must be tied back and all children should have their hair examined/treated regularly. If you have the slightest suspicion that your child may have head lice, please keep him/her at home and treat the hair. If myself or another teacher has suspicions about your child's hair, we will be asking you to come in immediately, collect and treat them.

It is not fair on other children to have repeated infestations because of untreated heads.

Parking

May I remind everyone that at the end of the school day the school bus will be parked by the main school gate (where the cars enter). Can you please make sure that this space is left clear and that there is room for the children to walk safely to the bus?

Staffing/Student Teacher

You may have noticed that Mrs McMahon has returned to school this term. We are delighted that she is back with us – during the summer, the Department of Education were unable to make satisfactory and alternative arrangements so she will continue to work with us for the foreseeable future.

Over the next four weeks, Miss Lorraine Johnson, a student teacher from the Church of Ireland College of Education will be working in school. She will mainly work in Miss Bustard's room. We welcome her to our school and hope that she will find the experience both helpful and enjoyable.

Dates

Hallowe'en Break – School will be closed for the week beginning Monday 31st October.

Christmas – Last day of term will be Thursday 22nd December/School will open again on Monday 9th January, 2012

And finally....

I would like to wish everyone another happy, busy and successful school year.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Somerville