



End of Year Letter – June 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the end of yet another school year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your help, support and interest this year. We have had another very busy and successful year in school and you, as partners in the education of your children, deserve much of the credit for that.

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	Wednesday 25 th June (School closes at 12.00 noon – Barbecue & Fun Night @ 6 p.m.)
Drama Summer Camp	Monday 21 st – Friday 25 th July
School re-opens	Monday 1 st September
Half-Term	School will be closed for the week beginning Monday 27 th October
Christmas Holidays	Last day of term – Friday 19 th December (closing at 12.00 noon)
Term 2	School will open again on Monday 5 th January

Class Arrangements for September/Staffing

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

Mrs Gourley:	Junior Infants & Senior Infants (15)
Mrs Patterson:	First, Second & Third Class (25)
Mrs. Somerville:	Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Class (24)

Miss Zara Browne will be covering Mrs Patterson's Maternity Leave. Miss Browne completed one of her teaching practices in the Senior Room in November 2012. I know that you will make her very welcome and give her your full support during her time here.

Mrs McMorrow will be continuing in her role as Resource Teacher for the next academic year.

Infant Day

Until Friday 5th September, the Junior Infants will go home at 12.30 p.m. From Monday 10th 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, I would like to thank Jenny Mahon and Jackie McGlinchey for their regular help in school.

I would also like to thank Mrs Esther Russell for her help with R.E. in the Senior Room and also for the other activities she has supported us with in school this year.

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 reading activities/craft work/cooking etc. would be very welcome.

Uniform

Please ensure the children have navy trousers or skirts and **black shoes (no trainers or shoes with white soles or trims)** to wear with their burgundy jumpers. 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 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).

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. It is school policy to contact parents if we have an unexplained absence.

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.

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. There are photographs in the Gallery. DVDs of the show are available for a donation of €5 to school funds.

Sports Day

Thank you to everyone who came along to watch the races and take part in the activities on Sports Day. We had great fun. There are photographs in the Gallery.

Thank you

We are very fortunate to have a number of people who work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that our school is able to do its best for your children. All of these people give their time, energy and enthusiasm, often working unseen, unnoticed, above and beyond what is asked of them and to them we say thank you:

The teaching staff, not only for their dedication to teaching, but also for the care they give the children and their own individual contributions to creating a warm, welcoming and vibrant school community;

Mrs. Cathrena Duncan, for the support she has given the staff this year and for all the work she has done in the school office;

Mrs. Muriel Mitchell not only for her outstanding work in keeping our school clean but also for the many little things which she has helped with this year;

Mr. Ezra Mitchell for all the many things he has volunteered and helped with throughout this year;

Mr. John Barnett for his continued help in the garden and for all the support he gives us in school;

Mr. Noel Given for his work in the school grounds this year;

The P.T.A. for the efforts they have made on behalf of all the children this year;

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.

Condolences

We extend sympathy to the Gibson family on their recent bereavements.

Head Lice

We have had very few 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.

6th Class

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

Megan, Eva and Conor who are starting Coláiste Cholmchille, Ballyshannon,
Ben and Lee who are starting the Abbey Vocational School, Donegal and
Robert who is starting the Royal and Prior Comprehensive, Raphoe

...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. Enjoy spending time with your children.

I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Somerville
Principal

