



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back. I hope everyone has had a lovely holiday and enjoyed a well-earned rest. I am aware there have been some illnesses and hospital visits over the summer; I hope everyone is feeling well again. I would also like to extend my sympathy to those families in our school community who suffered a bereavement during the holidays.

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 7 new Junior Infants and also to Lavina and Stacey who are joining us in 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class. 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.

### **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. During the holidays the entrance porch and the toilets were repainted. We thank William Goodwin for the excellent job he did.

### **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/P.E.**

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. days will normally be Tuesday and Thursday each week but please note that from next week (beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September), we will be switching to Monday and Wednesday as Gaelic Football Coaching will take place each Wednesday from 19<sup>th</sup> September until the

Hallowe'en break. We look forward to welcoming Paddy Hegarty back to school. This training is provided free of charge to school, so we thank him very much.

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. A treat may be brought on Fridays. During the year, healthy eating is covered in curriculum work and from time to time, I hope to send home some information on healthy lunchboxes.

### **Absence from school**

Notes are required for all school absences and should be sent to your child's teacher. This year, for the first time, I have put an absence form on the school website. This can be filled in online and will be emailed directly to the school office. You will find it at the bottom of the front page of the website. 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!) It is school policy to contact parents if we have not been notified of an absence by 10 a.m. 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.

Attendance last year was excellent and the teachers appreciate the efforts you made to minimise the disruption caused by appointments etc. Thank you.

### **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. There is also an online contact form on the website which you can fill in online. 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**

During the summer, I began the process of updating our website and giving it a bit of a facelift! Our website address is still [www.robertson.ie](http://www.robertson.ie). Please take the time to visit it. It contains letters, dates of events, school policies/plans, samples of children's work and we hope to include 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 I, 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 Changes**

We said goodbye to Miss Henderson at the end of the year and now we welcome Mrs Gourley instead. We send our warmest congratulations and you can have a look at a few photographs in the gallery. The sun shone for the big day and everything went perfectly.

We are delighted that Mrs McMahon has been able to return to us for the foreseeable future.

Ms Breslin will continue to visit school each week to teach French to the Senior pupils.

Mrs Russell will be working in the Senior Room each week as part of our R.E. programme. This term we are looking at the story of Daniel.

## **Dates**

Half-term: School will be closed for the week beginning Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Christmas: School will close at 12.00 noon on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December and will open again on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

*(Please note that the school dates are also available on the school website)*

## **And finally....**

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

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Somerville