



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back. I hope everyone has had a lovely holiday despite the weather and everyone has enjoyed a well-earned rest.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers, good wishes and messages following my recent illness. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated. I was very sad to have missed the end of the school year with you. I would like to sincerely thank all of the teaching staff in school, but particularly Mrs Gourley for so ably managing the last fortnight of the term and especially for so successfully staging our End of Year Show. It is difficult for me to convey to you how much extra stress, work and effort that this involved for her. I would also like to thank Mrs Duncan for the support she gave the staff during this time.

We are now looking forward to another fun and busy year.

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 10 new Junior Infants and also to Gary and Shane who are joining us in the Middle Classroom. 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 ensuring that we returned to a spotless school and for taking care of the flowers and planters outside the school.

We also thank William Goodwin for his painting work inside the school and to those who were involved in helping with the carpet cleaning and furniture moving during the holidays.

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 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.

Absence from school

Notes are required for all school absences and should be sent to your child's teacher. There is also 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 a 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

In an effort to keep notes and wasted paper to a minimum, please continue to check the website for news and dates. Our website address is 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 try 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.

We will also post regular news and bits of information on our school Facebook page.

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 welcome Miss Laura McGinley to our Middle Room while Mrs Patterson is on Maternity Leave. Miss McGinley has worked in school on many occasions in the last academic year and I know you will all make her feel very welcome. We send our congratulations to Mrs Patterson on the birth of her little boy, Arthur. We are hoping he will come and visit us in the very near future.

We are delighted that Mrs McMahon is returning this year as Resource Teacher.

Dates

Half-term: School will be closed for the week beginning Monday 31st October

Christmas: School will close at 12.00 noon on Thursday 22nd December and will open again on Monday 9th 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