

# ROBERTSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter

SPRING 2013, ISSUE 2

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EMAIL YOUR ASSOCIATION  
[RNSPARENTSASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RNSPARENTSASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM)

## ROBERTSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL WORLD BOOK DAY WINNERS

The school entered a competition run by World Book Day Ireland, and courtesy of Children's Books Ireland the school has won €1000 worth of books. The competition was open to all primary and secondary schools in the country and the judges felt that our celebration of World Book Day was the best!

The Robertstown NS children and parents celebrated World Book Day by walking to school dressed as their favourite book character. Huge effort was put into choosing their books, their character's costumes and dressing up on the day. Thanks to all of you we were able to put together a collage of photos of the day and submit them with a description of our event. We cannot wait for our new books to arrive.

### Cake Sale

We held a Cake Sale in the school on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. A big thank you to everyone who supported this event, by donating your baked goods and coming down to buy up bags of delicious treats.



The school is incredibly lucky to have such wonderful generous parents, baking up a storm. We were able to make €360, which will go toward the FunDay expenses.

### RNS 2013 Fun Day Friday June 14th

Thanks to the organizing committee who are already putting plans in place. We are now looking for parents who can do/provide the following:

- Bakers
- Crafts for the craft stall
- Spot prizes/donations
- Plant donations for the plant stall

If you think you can help out with any of these please email us.

In the meantime we need donations of tights for the grassheads, potting compost, seeds and pots.

We have compiled a list of jobs we need help with on the day of the fun day:

- Setting up tables, stalls etc.
- Manning the stalls
- Face painting
- Refereeing games/activities

We will prepare a signup roster for the above and have it available in the school and at the school gate. Please sign up. Parents can also email any suggestions or help you may like to offer to [rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com)



### RNS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MISSION

In line with the education act 1998 the Robertstown N.S. Parent's Association shall promote the interests of its pupils in co-operation with the board, principal, teachers and students. We will devise a program of activities, which will promote the involvement of parents in the operation of the school, in consultation with the principal.

The act states that membership of the association is open to all parents of the students of the school.

## Event Calendar 2013

### MAY

**Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>**

National Walk On Wednesday  
Children & Parents will meet at the hotel  
8:30am

**Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>**

Junior & Senior Infants school tour

**Friday May 24<sup>th</sup>**

Jersey Day

**Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>**

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion, Allen Church 11.00am

**Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup>**

Parish Sports, 6pm Ballyteague

**Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup>**

6<sup>th</sup> Class School Tour

### JUNE

**Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

School closed for June Bank Holiday

**Thursday June 13<sup>th</sup>**

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> class school tour

**Friday June 14<sup>th</sup>**

2013 RNS Fun Day

**Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>**

Uniform Shop open at School  
2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniform sale

**Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup>**

Induction Day for Incoming Junior Infants  
(Juniors & Seniors to finish school at  
12noon)

**Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup>**

6<sup>th</sup> class Graduation

**Friday June 28<sup>th</sup>**

Half Day for last day of school

### Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is scheduled to open in the school on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2pm. The uniform supplier ([www.ofarrellschoolwear.com](http://www.ofarrellschoolwear.com)) will display samples of the school uniform, and parents will be able to place an order. Parents will receive a 10% discount on orders placed on the day.

On the same day the PA will run a secondhand uniform sale, proceeds of which will go to the school. We are asking for donations of all your old school uniform items, including the grays. You will be able to drop them into the school from June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### School Uniform Policy

The BOM has asked for the assistance of the Parent's Association in reviewing the school uniform policy. We would like to include the opinions of as many parents as possible regarding the uniform and general codes of dress. We would encourage all parents to forward any suggestions on a uniform policy to [rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com) by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Brainy Breakfasts

We all know it is important for kids to have breakfast every day. Choosing breakfast foods that are rich in whole grains, fiber, and protein while low in added sugar may boost your child's attention span, concentration, and memory. An active lifestyle and a good night's sleep will also help your child enjoy school and make the most of the many opportunities to learn created by you and by your child's teachers.



This is particularly important at this time of year, which is when the school is required to administer standardised tests. We are all familiar with the idea of tests in school. Your child probably tells you how they did in a spelling or tables test prepared by the teacher. A standardized test is another kind of test.

The standardized tests in English reading and maths measure a child's achievement compared to other children in all schools at the same class level or age level.

All primary schools are required to carry out standardised testing in English reading and Maths during May/June for all children in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes. Like many primary schools, Robertstown NS administers these tests to all classes. A small number of children might not take the tests. For example, if your child's first language is not English, the teacher may decide that he/she should not take the English reading test. Your child may, however, take the maths test. The main purpose of standardized tests is to help the teacher plan your child's learning, and to inform you about how well your child is doing in English reading, maths and Irish reading.



The test scores are only one source of information about your child's learning. The teacher gathers information about your child's learning all the time, through observing your child at work, talking with them and looking at their work. Used alongside this information, the standardized test show how your child is getting on in English reading, maths and Irish reading, and help the teacher to identify your child's strengths and needs.

There is no preparation required for standardized tests, but it is still a good idea for children to have had a healthy breakfast and be well rested when they take them. The children will take the standardized tests as part of their normal school day and some children may not even be aware they are taking them. Further information for parents on standardised tests is available online at [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

### A Word From The Board Of Management

As the Board of Management are a year into our four year term, we thought that it would be a good idea to remind parents of some of the key activities we are responsible for, in order to make Robertstown N.S. the best school it can be.

As part of the Whole School Evaluation, the Board drew up the Whole School Plan which outlines our vision for the school into the future.

We have made several new appointments to the staff and provide a direct line of support to the Principal, Ms. Dillon.

The Board has overall responsibility for the school's finances and have been trying to make savings wherever possible, as grants to the school have been significantly reduced in the last four years. We would like to thank you for the voluntary contributions made over the past year which make such a vital difference to the daily operation of the school.



Our New Patron, Reverend Denis Nulty

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed as Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, the Very Reverend Denis Nulty, Parish Priest of Saint Mary's Parish, Drogheda, Diocese of Meath.

The Episcopal ordination of our Bishop Elect, will take place on Sunday 4th August 2013 in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow.

The position has been vacant for almost four and a half years. At the age of 35, he was the youngest parish priest in the country, and now, at the age of 50, he is the youngest bishop, and at 6'5", probably the tallest as well.

### School Needs Parents Help With Painting

The Parent's Association is planning to do interior painting in the school during the summer holidays. Our aim is to start with the main corridors, which needs a good clean and then a paint job.

The PA would love to hear from anybody who can donate paint, painting equipment and/or a couple of hours of your time. Does anybody know of any contacts in the painting trade, and who would be willing to help us out?



We would also love to hear from those who are willing to give a few hours of their time to help with the painting. The exact date has yet to be decided, but we expect it will be a weekend in July. Please email the PA committee at [rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com) or call the school.

### Parish Sports

The Parish Sports Day is a yearly event organized by either Allen, Robertstown or Allenwood schools. This year it will be organized by Allen school and held on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Ballyteague. All the children are encouraged to participate.



We are looking for RNS parents to help out on the evening with a marshalling point, at which RNS children can congregate, return to, and meet their parents. Please let the PA know if you can help out.