



Newsletter No 34

22nd June 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This is the final newsletter of the school year. It seems like a lifetime ago since we were all together on March 12th and so much has happened in the interim.

This week the teachers are asking for contributions towards a short class video that is being put together for each class. By sending in a photo or farewell note, you are consenting to it being included in the video. The class videos will be emailed to parents of each class on Monday next. These clips are intended as a virtual farewell to all pupils from their classmates and teachers as we head into the summer holidays. **Please do not circulate this video or upload onto any social media platform. It is intended for your viewing and your child's viewing only. This message should also be conveyed to pupils that have access to social media especially pupils in senior classes.**

I want to take this opportunity to thank you the parents of Robertstown NS. We (parents and teachers) were all spiralled into unknown territory when school closed. We were offered no guidance on distance learning and had to upskill and make plans very quickly. Each week the challenges we were all faced with changed and this put huge strain on us all. We did not know the answers to so many questions and still do not know the answers to so many more questions. You engaged with distance learning on so many levels. So many of you supported your children in following the suggested work plan issued weekly by teachers. More of you designed a work plan that suited your home situation better. Some families chose to take this time to focus on learning new life skills. We received a lot of emails from concerned parents worried that their best efforts were not enough. I want to assure you now that your best efforts are always enough. The children of Robertstown will always remember these months and I hope most of all that they remember the fun they had at home with their entire families. To the many parents who continued working through these times both from home and outside of the home, you have faced additional pressure. Please be assured that your child is not expected to have reached any particular standard in learning when we return, hopefully in September. The wellbeing of pupils, parents and staff is and will continue to be our primary concern in Robertstown NS. When children feel secure and emotionally stable, they are much more capable to engaging with education.

To the staff of Robertstown NS, thank you all for your huge effort over the past months. You have engaged so wholeheartedly in a fast upskilling journey. You have gone to such huge lengths to engage with parents, pupils and staff. Many of you were also teaching your own children at home and/or minding other family members. Others were operating from your childhood family home with little or no resources. At all times, you tried to add an element of fun to the work that you issued weekly. We look forward to getting back together to continue the fun in school.

The Board of Management of Robertstown NS has supported the school behind the scenes along this journey. We met regularly (virtually) to discuss how best we could support pupils, parents and staff during the past term. I want to thank the Board of Management for their support and dedication to wellbeing and education at all times.



The payment link for the book rental scheme is live. Please pay online by July 10th if you wish to participate in the scheme. This is the final date that you can pay for the scheme. We will not be accepting cash payments this year. A small number of parents have yet to return books from this year. **Please return these to school on Wednesday or Thursday of this week between 9am -2pm.**

You must return books from this year to join the book rental scheme for next year.

All our sixth class pupils came to the school last Thursday to meet Mrs. Sherlock and Ms. Magrane. Children were presented with their t-shirts and certificate of school completion. It was wonderful to meet these children to say farewell to them and wish them well as they start secondary school. We are so proud of the pupils in this class. They have shown such resilience. They have missed out on the traditional milestones and activities that usually occur in the last term of primary school. This is regrettable. Unfortunately, we are unable to hold the traditional sixth class graduation this year. Pupils from sixth are invited to join us on zoom with their families on **Thursday June 25th**. Links will issue to parents closer to the time. We intend to invite these past pupils back for a party in September, if permitted.

We have received no new information regarding reopening schools over the past week. I am very keen to know how school will operate in September so that planning for reopening can start. We are hoping we will all be back in September but will follow DES and public health advice at all times.

As a precautionary measure we have updated our Acceptable Use Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement. These were updated to include provision for blended learning should the need arise in September. Guidance is included on protocols around Zoom / conference calls. We will be extending zoom calls to all classes from September if we have to engage in blended learning.

I wish you all a relaxing and peaceful summer break. I hope you and your children can enjoy the summer without any worries about returning to school in September. I'm looking forward to meeting everybody again and taking up where we left off. Lots of fun activities included!

Take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Regards,

Marion Sherlock