



Newsletter No 19

8th February 2021

Admissions

We are still accepting applications for enrolment in September 2021. Application forms are available on the school website or you can email the office at robertstownns@gmail.com



Zoom Calls

We have completed training and the good news is we will resume Zoom calls on Thursday. There will be changes in the manner that parents log into calls to enhance security to the highest levels and minimise the threat of any hacking. All classes will have 2 Zoom calls per week - Monday/ Tuesday and Thursday / Friday. Class teachers will advise parents of the time of class calls. **You must give consent through Aladdin for your child to participate in Zoom.** If you have any difficulties with Aladdin, please email your class teacher to indicate that you give consent for your child to join class Zoom calls. Consent links have been sent to all parents. **All parents must have a registered free Zoom account. You can only join the meeting if you log in through your own account.**

You are advised to check out information about Zoom on this link before you give permission for your child to use Zoom going forward. You can also set up your own free Zoom account at this link.

<https://zoom.us>

Parents have the right to decide if they wish their child to join in class Zoom calls or not. Communication will continue on Seesaw as it is at present. A virtual class is very different to a face to face classroom setting. While in school, teachers are actively supervising pupils and have responsibility for the pupils at that time. However, in a virtual class setting, pupils are not under the control and supervision of the teachers to any great degree. **It is vital that parents understand that pupils need to be supervised by them during the virtual meetings.**

Teachers will issue the Meeting ID (long number) the night before the meeting by email. The Passcode (6 digits) will be sent to parents by text 15 minutes before the meeting. **The name of the child / parents must be visible or your child will not be admitted from the waiting room to the meeting. Teachers will not admit unknown names or device names e.g. Samsung/ Galaxy.** Once all participants have entered the meeting the meeting will be locked (after 5 minutes). This prevents further participants joining the meeting after this point.



Midterm Break

School is closed next week for Midterm Break. As we are following the school calendar, teachers will not be posting work on Seesaw or holding any Zoom meetings next week. School resumes remotely on February 22nd following the Remote Teaching and Learning Plan. We hope you all enjoy a well-earned rest next week.



Gráinne's Weekly Art Challenge

Gráinne has treated us to some lovely art activities, PE ideas, poetry suggestions and 2 recipes for St. Valentine's Day in her resource pack this week. You can access these activities on the school website.

Acting Principal

The Board of Management has been unable to complete the process of appointing a new principal due to restrictions in place. Mr. O'Donoghue will act up as principal until an appointment is made. Ms. Dunne will act as deputy principal for this period. The Board of Management will notify parents when a principal has been appointed. A replacement teacher will take over Mr. O' Donoghue's teaching duties while he is Acting Principal.

Change of Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

The Board of Management has appointed Mr. O'Donoghue as Designated Liaison Person for Robertstown NS. He is the point of contact for any concerns relating to Child Protection issues from February 22nd. Ms. Dunne has been appointed as Deputy Designated Liaison Person from February 22nd.

Time to Say Goodbye

I will finish up as Principal of Robertstown NS on Friday next 12th February. I would like to thank the Board of Management, staff and parents for all your support over the past four years. I will miss all the pupils and am so sorry that I can't get to say goodbye to them in person. I wish the Board every success in appointing a new principal for Robertstown NS. I have enjoyed my time in Robertstown NS immensely and am so proud of all the wonderful children and their numerous accomplishments. I know that the new principal will receive a very warm welcome.