

St. Attracta's Senior School

MEADOWBROOK - DUBLIN 16



Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht

CLUAIN GHLAISE - ÁTH CLIATH 16



NEWSLETTER #3 Samhain agus Mí na Nollag 2020

GREEN SCHOOLS

There has been lots of activity on the Green School's front in our school over the last few weeks.

GREEN SCHOOL'S COMMITTEE - Firstly, the children in each class have decided on our new Green School's Committee. The Green School's Committee is the driving force of the project and gives a voice to children in our school about all things green. Any child who expressed an interest in this area were invited to put their names forward. One student from each class was then democratically elected by their peers. This is a fantastic achievement for each child and one they should be proud of. Congratulations to our newly elected members. We hope they will serve their school well and we look forward to working with them.

BOTHÁR - This year, we have once again decided to join the Bothár Christmas appeal and help those less fortunate than ourselves. Bóthar assists needy families to overcome, hunger, malnutrition and poverty in a simple sustainable manner. The living gift of a farm animal gives a struggling family the opportunity to improve their circumstances and provide relief from the extreme poverty they live in. To help this cause, the children can bring in coins or loose change from home in a **sealed plastic bag** up until **Monday 21st December**. So please give anything you can as it will make a big difference to a community in need this Christmas.

WALK ON WEDNESDAY - As a Green School we encourage all families to walk to school or to park and stride as often as possible. It is wonderful to see so many children cycling to school and we remind children to always wear a helmet. We have recently installed more bike stands around the school where children can lock their bikes. We particularly encourage families to participate in our **Walk On Wednesday** initiative, happening every Wednesday. We are advocating for more active travel such as walking, cycling and scooting to school or park and stride. So why not get involved every Wednesday and let's do our bit to help the environment.

FLYING HIGH - Finally, as you may have noticed over the last few days, Mr. McCann, with the help of our 5th and 6th class Green School's Reps replaced our previous green flags with new ones. These all represent our fantastic work in our school over the last few years. Hopefully we can add to this haul, as this year we will begin our work towards our 7th green flag, **Global Citizenship – Energy**. This will allow us review our work on energy from a couple of years ago and also develop this idea with a global perspective. We look forward to all children getting involved to help us in our goal in obtaining this flag



GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE 2020-21

Múinteoir	Rang	Student Representative
Mr. Coughlan	3	Amelia Lawless
Ms. Murphy	3	Barra O Baoill
Mr. Kirwan	3	Sophie Xing
Ms. Reinhardt	3	Ollie Brennan
Ms. Neville	4	Luca Moran
Ms. Grealis	4	Jonathan Gleeson
Ms. Nelly	4	Elyas Seddiki
Ms. Rafter	5	Ruairí Kelliher
Ms. Mulligan	5	Joshua Daly
Mr. Fitzgerald	5	Lauren McKeon
Ms. Miles	5	Jack Carr
Mr. Kenny	6	Conor Nolan
Mr. Bradley	6	James Breatnach
Ms. Healy	6	Maisie Julian

Active School Committee 2020-21

Múinteoir	Rang	Student
Mr. Coughlan	3	Adam Berry
Ms. Murphy	3	Callie O'Riordan
Mr. Kirwan	3	Jamie Kenny
Ms. Reinhardt	3	Ben Madigan
Ms. Neville	4	Oran Bartelink
Ms. Grealis	4	Harry O'Toole
Ms. Nelly	4	Laura Ryan
Ms. Rafter	5	Max Byrne White
Ms. Mulligan	5	Matthew McCarthy
Mr. Fitzgerald	5	Aoife Fahy
Ms. Miles	5	Ryan Cunningham
Mr. Kenny	6	Daragh Byrne
Mr. Bradley	6	Abigail Casey
Ms. Healy	6	Síne Farrelly

Staff Committee 2020-21

Ms. McDonagh	Mr. Kenny
Ms. Mulligan	Ms. Nelly
Ms. Nelly	Mr. Kirwan
Ms. Watkins	Ms. McCormack

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying Week took place from November 16th-20th.

We hear lots in the media about bullying in schools, with the focus often on cyber-bullying and the mean, nasty things people post on messages and phones. The age old advice from our parents and grandparents that 'if you can't say something nice, then don't say anything at all' is good and sound advice, which we should all heed.

This tied in well with our Well-being theme for November; Kindness and Anti-bullying. Ms. Healy's 6th Class students delivered a fantastic presentation on the theme of bullying and it is available to view on the Latest News section of our school website www.sasns.ie

To highlight Anti-Bullying Week, we also had an **ODD SOCKS DAY** on Friday 20th November.



ACTIVE SCHOOL

Our new Active School Committees for 2020/2021 have been appointed.

All our classes are being as active as possible. They are having regular movement breaks in class. They are given Active Homework once a week. We are encouraging them to walk, cycle or Park and Stride to school if possible.

We now have a WELL DONE WALL on both corridors. If your child has achieved something in relation to activity and fitness - won a medal in GAA/ Soccer/ Gymnastics/Dance... Maybe they went on a big hike at the weekend that they want to celebrate. Please, send in a photo to your class teacher and a short written account of what they achieved. The Active School Rep will then put it on the Well Done Wall. You can also email the photo and account to the class teacher and they will upload it onto the website.

We hope to meet all our students before Christmas when it is safe to do so. We will then outline our plan for Terms 2 and 3. Hopefully we will be able to resume some extra-curricular sport and be able to enjoy our Active/Sport's Days. We are also keeping an eye on the progress in fixing the swimming pool.



KINDNESS COUNTS!

There is no substitute for kindness and where kindness prevails - bullying doesn't exist!

On Friday 13th November, we celebrated WORLD KINDNESS DAY by teaching the children about kindness and asking them to play their part.

Kindness Counts certificates were presented to a number of students who were selected by their peers and teachers for consistently displaying kindness in their dealings with others.



PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS 2020

Due to the current Level 5 restrictions, our Parent/Teacher meetings which are usually held during the second week in November have been postponed until next term.

Please know that if you have concerns about any aspect of your child's time in school, you're always welcome to arrange an appointment to talk to us. The teacher who actually teaches your child is always the first port of call.



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

On Tuesday 8th December, we celebrated a very special feast day, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Lady has a very special place in our hearts here in St. Attracta's Senior School and we ask Our Lady to bless us in our work and in our play.

She is such a special person because she gave us her son, Jesus Christ, whose birthday we will celebrate on the 25th December. An online Mass was celebrated with the entire school on Tuesday 8th December at 9.30am.

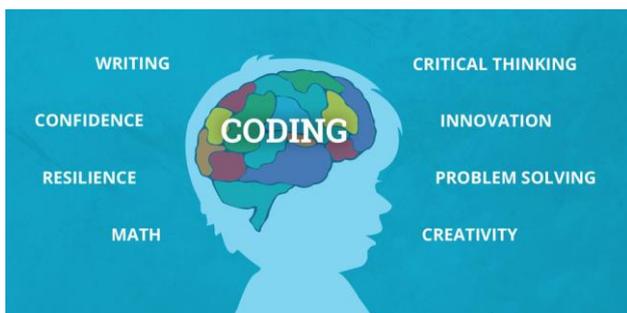
An online Christmas Mass will be celebrated with the children on Monday 21st December.



HOUR OF CODE

Over the coming weeks, all classes will enjoy an Online Hour of Code, sponsored by Microsoft. We are very grateful to parent Colin O' Neill who has co-ordinated these sessions for the children. These sessions involve discussing and speculating on how coding can help us achieve the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

This year's tasks will allow the children to develop their computational thinking skills while addressing sustainability problems that will directly affect the world they are growing up in



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT Spiorad na Nollag

Our Advent wreath is lit in school every morning. But what is it all about?

The circle of evergreen leaves stands for God's everlasting love which is without beginning and without end. The four candles - one for each week of Advent - symbolise our waiting to welcome Jesus Christ. The three purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. The rose coloured candle stands for the joy of living in God's way of love. The white candle stands for Jesus' birthday on 25th December. The red ribbon stands for Jesus' blood shed on the cross for love of us.

Mr. Maguire, Ms. Coyle and 5th Class student Sebastian McMahon led an **Advent Wreath Blessing** over the intercom on Friday November 27th.



Christmas Countdown Giveaway

Many thanks to our **Parents Association** for providing a beautiful hamper to give away to one lucky child every Friday before Christmas.

The **Free Entry Raffle** has been hugely popular with the children and it is greatly appreciated by everyone.

Our lucky winners so far have been:

- Week 1: **Zi Han He** - Ms. Reinhardt's 3rd Class
- Week 2: **Nicholas Henson** - Mr. Bradley's 6th Class
- Week 3: **Julio Caprice** - Mr. Fitzgerald's 5th Class
- Week 4: **Jack Carr** - Ms. Miles' 5th Class





DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

It is a great tradition in Saint Attracta's to support charities throughout the year, but at Christmas, we try to concentrate the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** and **Bóthar** as mentioned above.

On Friday 18th December, we'll have our **JOLLY JUMPERS** fundraiser, which will be a Christmas-themed No Uniform Day for St. Vincent de Paul. Children will pay €2 to wear their Christmas colours (red, green, sparkle - whatever!) In the Senior School, our theme for December is *Giving and Gifting*. We have asked the children to stop and appreciate all that we have instead of looking for more.



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION!

A few weeks ago, the Board of Management issued its Voluntary Contribution appeal for this school year. We now wish to clarify that all we need before Christmas is the paperwork to set up the Direct Debit forms for January 2021 onwards.

We remind you that the Voluntary Contribution covers children in both schools and that the figure of €21 per month is to avail of revenue benefits as the school is a registered charity.

Thanks so much for your generosity to date. **The Voluntary Contribution is what ensures that we keep our school as modern and as welcoming as possible for your children.**

STRANGER DANGER!

BE PREPARED! During these long dark evenings we ask parents to tell your children when going home:

- to leave promptly after school ends
- not to walk home alone, if possible
- to follow a route approved by you
- when crossing the Broadford Road to cross with the lollipop lady

AND AT ALL TIMES TO

- avoid talking to strangers
- avoid approaching cars or vans they don't recognize or speaking to people they don't know.

It's very important that in unforeseen circumstances, children know what to do. Make sure your child knows exactly where to go after school and where to meet you if being collected. **Please make sure your child knows your telephone number off by heart.**

We ask all parents to equip their children with the necessary skills to deal with situations where they don't feel safe or where they feel uncomfortable. We also work on this in school on a regular basis as part of our Stay Safe programme.

40th ANNIVERSARY

We hope to celebrate the **40th Anniversary of the Opening of Saint Attracta's SNS** in the New Year.

ANY PHOTOS, MEMORIES ETC.

CAN BE SENT TO:

stattracta40@gmail.com



Nollaig Shona!

On behalf of all of us in the Senior School, we wish all our children and their families a very happy, healthy and holy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

School will close for Christmas holidays at **11.50am (3rd&5th)** and **12 noon (4th&6th)** on **Tuesday 22nd December** and will re-open on **Wednesday 6th January at 8.40am (3rd&5th)** and **8.50am (4th&6th)**.

Beannachtaí na Nollag agus gach dea-ghuí don Athbhliain!

Shane Maguire, Príomhoide

