

### Dear Parents and Guardians,

Fáilte ar ais! A big welcome back to school to all the children and especially those who are new to the school – 15 in total in other classes. We hope all our children will be very happy here in St. Attracta's Senior School. If at any time you have any questions, concerns or worries or if you're not sure about something, please don't hesitate to contact us. But do make an appointment so that class teaching time won't be interrupted.



We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new teachers – Ms. O'Regan, Ms. Miles and Ms. Murphy – we hope they will be very happy here in St. Attracta's Senior School.

We look forward to a fabulous year ahead. Gach rath ar an obair!

*Muireann Máirtín*, Príomh Oide

### OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS



St. Attracta's Senior School opens to receive pupils at 8.50a.m. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will end each day at 2.30p.m. Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them collected and the person to escort them should be at the school not later than 2.30p.m. as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

### CALLING ALL PARENTS OF NEW PUPILS.....



We hope your children are settling in well, whether they have come from the Junior School or from far afield. We'll hold our coffee morning for parents of new 3<sup>rd</sup> class pupils (and other new pupils) on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** at **9.00a.m.** (just after dropping children to school)

This will give us a chance to meet you and for you to meet other parents as well. Our coffee morning will take place in the Curriculum Room and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible! Join us for a cup of tea or coffee, a chat, a mingle with other parents and a chance to say a quick hello to the 3<sup>rd</sup> class teachers - Ms. Carey, Ms. Neville & Ms. Miles.

**We look forward to seeing you! ~ Iníon Uí Mháirtín**

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

We're delighted to inform you that the flooring in all toilets throughout the school was replaced over the summer months. It has given a facelift to all classrooms. We also had two classrooms painted from top to toe and new noticeboards for five classrooms are due for delivery next week, as well as coathooks to replace damaged hooks in cloakrooms.

We were very pleased with the cleaning company we employed this year for the summer clean but we owe huge thanks to Tony, our caretaker for his wonderful work over the summer keeping the school in order and dealing with the broken glass and rubbish scattered over the yard. Nobody can imagine the work Tony does in the background while the school is on holiday, so thanks a million Tony!

Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to a great year ahead of us! Go raibh míle maith agaibh!!!



## ATTENTION PARENTS of RANG 6:

In preparation for secondary school, your children will start a 10 week Science programme with science teacher Ms. Niamh Dorman **tomorrow, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September**. We do not charge for this but Ms. Dorman has asked that each child would have a display folder which is available from the Siopa at a cost of €2 each. It would be fabulous if all pupils had this in the morning, so that they can be well prepared for their science classes.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It is proposed that extra-curricular activities for this term will commence the week after next. **Enrolment will take place on Thursday morning, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8.30a.m. in the Halla.**



**A full list of activities, with times and dates will be sent home on Monday.**

While the school facilitates the extra-curricular activities, payment and consent forms will be dealt with directly by the individuals running them. Please understand that places are limited for health and safety reasons. In order to be fair to everybody, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Details of sporting activities will be dealt with separately by teachers as these are done on a voluntary basis without payment by the teachers. The sporting activities include GAA – football, hurling and camogie, as well as basketball, soccer, Olympic handball and athletics, so these will not be listed on the extra-curricular activities sheet as some of these are lunchtime activities, others are after school. Some are run in the first term, while others take place later in the year. Children will be notified in due course of these.

## COMPUTERS UPDATE



Following on from all the wonderful work done in relation to computers in the school over the years, we were assessed last June in terms of our engagement with and promotion of Information Technology. Several classes were visited and the children were fantastic. The financial and other support given by so many of our parents over the past few years in particular contributed in no small measure to our success. Our eLearning Plan is progressing well and we are now proud to call ourselves a Digital School. The Digital Schools Award will be presented to us later this month and we will continue to grow and develop our digital strategy as the year goes by. More updates later!

## GAELBHRATACH

Fuaireamar teastas freisin ag deireadh na bliana toisc go bhfuil an-iarracht á dhéanamh ag na paistí Gaeilge a labhairt i rith an lae. We have also been presented with a certificate recognising our efforts to promote Irish throughout the school. Our aim is simple: to get as many people – children and parents – speaking Irish in a natural way, keeping it simple but embracing and enjoying our native language – it's part of what we are. One new initiative we have this year is that our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils will become involved in selling items from our Siopa (see below) but it will all be as Gaeilge. Labhair Gaeilge linn!!



## PART B of BOOK LIST WELCOME ANYTIME!

Thank you to those who have paid and continue to pay the €75 Part B of the Book List which covers art and craft, photocopying, sports, computer and curriculum resources. The money collected from parents goes directly towards buying materials for the children. Therefore it helps with the day to day running of the school and without it we would not be able to provide for the children in the way that we do. The fact that so many parents have paid Part B is a huge help to our school in resourcing the many areas of the curriculum which the Department of Education and Skills does not financially support. If you have simply forgotten, prompt payment would be greatly appreciated. Payment can also be made gradually if that suits better. Parents are invited to contact the principal, Iníon Uí Mháirtín in confidence if you have any difficulty paying Part B. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.



## BOOK RENTAL:



The Book Rental Scheme has gone really well and by now every pupil in the school should have received their Book Rental books – we are awaiting a small delivery of books but if you paid for Book Rental and didn't receive books, please contact us immediately – please call us at 01-2951627. We remind all parents to encourage pupils to keep the books in good condition throughout the year. The first inspection of books will take place in November – be prepared!

## BRENNAN INSURANCES

The Parents' Association sent home a note about Personal Accident Insurance for Pupils. If your child didn't get the note or has lost the note, extra copies are available in the office, as the closing date is **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016**. Payment cannot be accepted by the Parents' Association after that date.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

So what's around the corner?

### ENROLMENT FOR EXTRA-CURRICULARS:

### CLOSING DATE FOR INSURANCE

### COFFEE MORNING FOR NEW PARENTS:

### SPORT FOR ALL DAY:

### DIGITAL SCHOOLS AWARDS CEREMONY

### MASS FOR THE START OF SCHOOL YEAR:

### GOAL JERSEY DAY:

### OCTOBER CAKE SALE:

### BOOK WEEK:

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September (Classes start week after)

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – 9.00a.m.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September

To be confirmed

To be confirmed

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

## SOME ROUTINE REMINDERS for the NEW SCHOOL YEAR

### BEWARE OF DOGS!



Time and time again we have appealed to parents not to bring dogs on to the school grounds. They may be your pet but there is no guarantee that they will be on their best behaviour if approached by young children. No matter how nice your dog is, when aggravated they may snap! Some children are also very frightened of animals so in everybody's interests, we ask you not to bring dogs on or near the school grounds.

### ROLL CALL , TIMEKEEPING & PUNCTUALITY

The Department of Education has issued a circular (0028/2013) directing schools that pupils not present at the time of roll call must be marked absent and the entry cannot be changed. Therefore any pupil not physically present in the classroom at roll call time will be marked absent.

Please make sure your child is **on time for school**. It seems unfair – particularly on the younger children – to be giving out to them if the reasons for being late are beyond their control. We ask parents to ensure that your child is on time for school with everything they need. Let's start as we mean to continue. Last year, our most regular latecomers lost between 6 and 19 hours of school time by being late for school. Once the classroom door is locked in the morning latecomers will have to sign in at the office, so let's all work together to start school on time, to learn more and to make life less stressful for our pupils!



### CHILDREN LEAVING SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS

As an increased safety measure, if your child has to go home early for any reason (illness, dental visits, etc.) s/he must be collected from the classroom and signed out at the office. We can't let children go home on their own as this is too dangerous. Nor can we let them cross the car parks to meet you as the traffic around the swimming pool is too dangerous.

Please collect your child from school if taking them out during the school day.



## WE'RE A TELLING SCHOOL!

Do you think your child is getting a hard time in school? Or just feeling a little lost and uncomfortable? Please tell us! We're a 'telling school' - not a 'telling tales school', but a 'telling the truth' school. We can't do anything if we don't know about it, but if we do know about it, we can work with your children to help solve problems and to keep them happy in school.

### A CHECKLIST!

All pupils should by now have the necessary

- ✓ **St. Attracta's** homework journal
- ✓ copies, books and stationery
- ✓ full uniform (labelled of course!)
- ✓ art folder & display folder
- ✓ prayer book
- ✓ a plastic box in which to store books
- ✓ a personal hand towel for use after visiting the bathroom

### SIOPA SCOILE

The following items are available from the Siopa:

Homework Journal	€5	Prayer Book	€3
Art Folder	€7	Display Folder	€2
Maths Set	€	Calculator	€5
Recorder	€7	Spelling Sheet	€3
Genre Copy	€2	Plastic Box	€4
Pritt Stick	€1	Personal towel	€1
Red and blue biros	30c	Pencils	20c
		Handwriting Copy	50c

## SAFETY IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT



With the interests of the safety of all our children at heart we appeal to all adults - only park in the permitted spaces on both sides of the school; please do not obstruct gates, park on double yellow lines, on the zig-zag lines at the pedestrian crossing on Broadford Road, in the Staff Car Park, or in the Bus Parking area directly outside the D.L.R., Meadowbrook. Please give good example to children by using the pedestrian crossings to access the school. If a child is hurt by careless driving it will already be too late. Remind all pupils to cross with the lollipop lady! Thank you for your co-operation.

### UNIFORM

Full school uniform should be worn on all days except P.E. days when the school tracksuit must be worn. We ask parents to ensure that the uniform is worn tidily and that shirts should be fully buttoned when children come to school. Please ensure all children wear black shoes with their uniform. Runners only on PE day! We also remind you that nail varnish, jewellery (bracelets, dangly earrings, necklaces, rings) are prohibited and **the same rules apply to all.**



### TELEPHONE CALLS

If your child is unwell, we will gladly contact you by phone, at no cost to you or your child. Unfortunately, as phone bills are so high, all pupils should have a euro in their bags in case they need to make a phone call home for forgotten items.



### HEALTHY HABITS

We ask all children to follow our Healthy Eating Policy with simple treats on Friday only – not a sweet-fest!!! We want to encourage a healthy lifestyle both now and in the future. A small treat is sufficient. However children do not have to have a treat on Fridays and we will support any parent who wants to stay healthy five days a week.



### WALK OR CYCLE TO SCHOOL

As a Green School we encourage all families to walk to school or to park and stride on Wednesdays. We encourage our children to walk or cycle to school, but we remind you that we can accept no responsibility for the care or security of bicycles on school grounds. Bicycles should be locked in school at all times. Children (or parents) should **never** cycle through the yard. Cyclists should dismount and walk the bike in and around the school



### PARTY INVITATIONS

It is our policy that invitations to parties **should not** be given out to children in school or on the school premises. As time goes on, it can create a lot of problems and can cause unnecessary hurt to certain children. We ask for your co-operation on this matter.



### SWIMMING ... SNÁMH

Swimming classes have started and the pupils are really enjoying the lessons. We're delighted to have the swimming pool on our doorstep and all classes will have six lessons between now and the end of the year. Parents will receive a note in advance, with the guidelines for swimming and the rules to be observed in the swimming pool.



