

Scoil Shinsíreach Naomh Athracht,
Meadowbrook, Áth Cliath 16.



ÉIRE - PREPARING FOR 2016

To commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising and to celebrate 100 years since the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, the Government has tasked Óglaigh na hÉireann with delivering a National Flag to every Primary School in the country.

Last Friday, 27th November, in St. Attracta's Senior National School, Dan Coughlan and Cian Hill welcomed members of the Army and the Air Corps to our school. We were particularly pleased to welcome two of our past pupils - Captain Mark Conway and Captain Michael Barcoe - who along with Flight Sergeant Ollie McKeown and Lt. Paul McDermott presented the National Flag and a copy of the 1916 Proclamation of Independence to us.

Passing through a guard of Honour formed by our Student Council, the officers entered the Halla to a rousing Senior School welcome. They then proudly read the Proclamation to the children, while two of our pupils - Donal Kelly and Hannah Turner Doyle - read the 4th paragraph of the Proclamation, which refers to *cherishing all the children of the nation equally*.

The National Flag - Bratach na hÉireann - was then formally presented to the school and Ronan McKenna and Anna Girika accepted the flag on behalf of all the pupils. The proclamation was then presented to Céile Ashe and Aidan Colbert, direct descendants of Thomas Ashe and Con Colbert who fought in 1916.

As we look forward to celebrating the centenary of the 1916 Rising, we also celebrate all that makes us Irish and all that binds us together as a nation. This was a proud moment in the history of our school and in the history of our nation.

At the end of the ceremony, all pupils, teachers and school staff joined together in singing Amhrán na bhFiann - united in voice and hearts.

Later in the school year, the celebrations will culminate in Proclamation Day on 15th March 2016, where every school throughout the country will raise the National Flag in a special ceremony - following the example of Óglaigh na hÉireann - and the 1916 Proclamation will be read.

In tandem with this work, children in all classes are gradually learning all about the events of Easter 1916 and finding out many interesting facts about their ancestors' connections with these historic events.

A selection of the children's work - symbols of Ireland, projects on 1916 and the children's thoughts on *What Being Irish Means to Me* - was displayed in the Halla on Friday.

Bhí an lá go hiontach agus bhí na páistí ar fheabhas! Ar aghaidh le chéile!

Beir bua is beannacht,
Muireann Máirtín
Príomh Oide

Samhain 2015