

St. Attracta's Senior School, Meadowbrook, Dublin 16
Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht Cluain Ghlaise Áth Cliath 16
Nuachtlitir - Eanáir 2019 January Newsletter

FÁILTE ARAIS!

We welcome you back to a new year, new hope and new experiences. We're delighted to report lots of hard work and excellent behaviour in all classes. Please tell us if your child is experiencing difficulties in school and remember there's a Worry Box in all classrooms – don't be afraid to use it boys and girls. We can only help you if you talk to us! We continue to promote kindness throughout the school, but it's up to each and every one of us to do our bit. So let's celebrate all that we do, as we ask God's blessings on another year!

Le gach dea ghúí,
Muireann Máirtín



NEW SECRETARY



We're delighted to report that our new school secretary, Ms. Suzanne Barrett - will start work next Monday 28th January. We hope she will find a warm welcome here in our midst and we are confident that in turn, she will be a welcoming presence in our school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience over the past number of weeks in the absence of full secretarial support. A huge *Go raibh míle maith agat* to Angela Coffey who volunteered her help and was of enormous help to us since Ms. Kilcline left. Ms. Kilcline sent a lovely letter to the pupils, thanking all the pupils and parents for the lovely gifts she received on her departure and she wishes all the pupils a very happy 2019.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week will take place next week, when we celebrate the joy of working in a Catholic school, whether as pupils or teachers. Throughout the country, Catholic Schools Week 2019 will run from 27 January to 3 February on the theme 'Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools'. Our Tuesday assembly will look at what makes our Catholic school joyful, while on Thursday, we will join with the parish community at a special Mass in the Oratory, to which all our families are invited.



GRANDPARENTS DAY



While this week will be marked in the school by many events both inside and outside the classroom, on Thursday 31st, we will also celebrate **Grandparents' Day** in recognition of all that grandparents do to pass on the faith to their children and grandchildren. St. Attracta's Senior School would like to invite grannies and granddads to join us after Mass for a cup of tea and a chat in the curriculum room. They will be joined for a few minutes by their grandchildren, because **Grandparents fill the world with love.**

TEN TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR CHILD'S STRESS AND ANXIETY

- ✚ Encourage your child to face his/her fears,
- ✚ not run away from them.
- ✚ Tell your child that it is okay to be imperfect!
- ✚ Focus on the positives. Don't dwell on the negatives.
- ✚ Schedule relaxing activities.
- ✚ Encourage good sleep hygiene.
- ✚ Encourage your child to express his/her anxiety.
- ✚ Help your child to problem solve. Don't do it for them!
- ✚ Stay Calm.
- ✚ Practice relaxation exercises with your child.
- ✚ Never give up!



CYBERSAFETY - KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE



Just as we teach children about road safety, fire safety, Halloween safety etc., we also have a duty to keep our children safe online. In school, we assure you that the children do not have unsupervised access to the internet during the school day. However they are really enjoying the computer room – and learning day by day.

To mark **Internet Safety Day**, Ms. Neville has arranged talks as follows:

- 5th, 6th, 12th & 13th February - **Internet Safety Talks for Pupils**
- Wednesday 13th February - **Internet Safety Talk for Parents** at 7.30p.m.

The aim of Cybersafe Ireland and of St. Attracta's SNS is that we want children to take advantage of all that the digital world has to offer in terms of education and enjoyment, but without putting themselves or others at risk. See www.cybersafeireland.org.

THE DIGITAL STRATEGY

St. Attracta's Senior School has been recognised as a Digital School of Distinction and this is a source of great pride for us. Some years ago, we never dreamed we would have a state of the art computer room as well as new interactive whiteboards in all classrooms. However, now that we have the infrastructure in place, we want to continue to use technology as a teaching tool to improve our teaching and learning. To that end, we have set up a committee of teachers and 6th class pupils who will work to improve learner outcomes in this area.

We will continue with our **Coppers for Computers** collection, which will help us buy accessories and software as the year goes by. All we ask is for all of us – teachers, children, parents and others to collect any loose change we find at home or at school. We don't ever do door to door collections, but please ask aunties, uncles, grannies and grandads to help with this. The amount collected each week will be totalled and we'll let the children know each week how we're doing. Ar aghaidh le chéile!



SPORTING SNIPPETS

Next Monday, 28th February our Olympic Handballers from 5th and 6th class will represent the school at the Olympic Handball Blitz in Gormanstown and then on Thursday 28th we will send out our best runners to perform at the Athletics Event in Adamstown. We wish them all the very best of luck. St. Attracta's abú!



THE BUZZY BEE



Last year, our amazing Student Council came up with the wonderful idea of setting up a School newspaper and with Mr. Kirwan's help, Issue #2 has just been published. Congratulations to all those who submitted articles, to those whose articles were published and to the editorial team for choosing articles, sending them for typesetting, proofreading, meeting deadlines and producing a first class newspaper based on the contributions of our pupils. Maith sibh, Dylan, Hannah, Sinéad, Aisling, Sarah, Olivia, Donagh agus Emily.

MUSICAL MESSAGES



Thirty children from our school will join with other children from local schools to sing in the **Laudate Choir** next Monday evening at 7.30p.m. This performance will take place in St. Pius X Church in Templeogue to mark the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. The children have been practising with Ms. Neville every morning before school, so if you need your spirits

lifted, do come along and enjoy this uplifting repertoire which will gladden your soul.

The **National Children's Choir** of 4th and 6th class pupils have also been learning a very wide repertoire of songs and they will perform in the National Basketball Arena in March.... something to look forward to – sopranos and altos singing a very challenging selection of 20 songs. Well done to all involved – keep the date free if you want to hear an amazing concert involving 600 primary school pupils,

And still on singing, well done and thank you to all the boys and girls who turned up at our **Christmas Eve Children's Mass** and sang their hearts out. It was great to see the new members from all classes as well as those children on whom we can always rely when it comes to Sunday Choir. We hope this will be a new beginning for the choir and for Ms. Neville and Ms. Roycroft too. Hallelujah!

TALENT SHOW

As we often hear at assemblies, St. Attracta's Senior School has many talented pupils, who excel in singing, dancing. Karate, horse riding, swimming, athletics and much more. But on Friday February 1st, we will have a chance to see some more talent, as the finalists from all classes put on a performance for us. Before that, all the acts will have a chance to perform for their classes and the winners will be chosen by the pupils themselves. One act from each class will represent the class and we look forward to a wonderfully entertaining afternoon.

**TALENT
SHOW**

GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH!



A very sincere thank you to all of you who supported our Charity Chain before Christmas. We raised almost €1200 for Bóthar and a further €700 in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, through our Christmas raffle and our No Uniform Day. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and know the good that you did for others!

A huge thank you also to all of you who have contributed in any way to our Voluntary Contribution Appeal. Every little (and large) helps! and the Board of Management really appreciates your generosity.

APPLICATIONS for 2019/2020

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

The closing date for receipt of completed applications for places in the Senior School for the academic year 2019/2020 is 3.00p.m. on Friday, 8th February 2019. Decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the Board of Management, in accordance with the school's enrolment policy. The school will hold an 'Open Day' for all new parents in May but in the meantime, we welcome all new applicants to make contact with the office, where we will be happy to help.

REMINDERS

- School starts at 8.50a.m. each morning. Be on time with everything you need.
- Have a little hand towel for drying your hands once you leave the bathroom.
- No mobile phones in school.
- Healthy lunches – lots of fruit – make sensible choices!
- Don't forget to bring a smile to school.
- Always show kindness and respect to one another



Diary Dates

Eanáir/January

Wednesday 23rd – OWLS – Rang 3

Wednesday 23rd - 6th Class CYCLING Course begins

Monday 28th - Olympic Handball Blitz in Gormanstown

Monday 28th - Laudate Choir performance in St. Pius, Templeogue - all welcome!

Feabhra/February

Friday 1st - Talent Show

Thursday 7th – ACCORD – Rang 5

Tuesday 5th - Internet Safety Talks Rang 3

Wednesday 6th - Internet Safety Talks Rang 4

Tuesday 12th - Internet Safety Talks Rang 6

Wednesday 13th - Internet Safety Talks Rang 5

Wednesday 13th - Internet Safety Talk for Parents at 7.30p.m.

12th/13th/14th - Simply Music - 3rd and 6th Classes

Thursday 14th - Green Schools' Accreditation Visit for 6th Green Flag

Friday 15th – February Cake Sale

18th – 22nd - Midterm Break

Thursday 28th - Athletics in Adamstown

Márta/ March

11ú-15ú – Seachtain na Gaeilge

Tuesdays 26th March, 2nd and 9th April: Rang 6 – You Shall Be My Witnesses
Parents' Association Bag Drop

