



St. Attracta's Senior School, Meadowbrook,  
Dublin 16  
Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht, Cluain Ghlaise Áth  
Cliath 16

Nuachtlitir - Aibreán/Bealtaine 2015 Newsletter April/May 2015

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that we're in our final term of work here in St. Attracta's Senior School. I hope you all had a happy Easter and a well-deserved break for the pupils. A big thank you to the boys and girls who helped out at the Easter ceremonies. A word of praise also to the boys and girls who always follow school rules and routines, making life much more pleasant for everybody. Keep up the good work this term a bhuachaillí agus a chailíní!

Le gach dea ghuí,



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Muireann Máirtín

### LONG THREATENING COMES AT LAST!

At long last we are almost ready to launch our new school website. Within the next few weeks, the children will let you know when it goes live, at which stage you will be able to view all newsletters online, enjoy our photo gallery, keep up to date with school activities and communicate with us when necessary. Plus much much more! Watch this space....



### SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May: Rainbows Day Fundraiser

Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>: Public holiday

Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> School holiday

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May: Skipathon @ 1.30

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May: Senior School Sports Day

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May: Celebration of Confirmation

School Tour dates: You will receive details from the class teachers about the trips but here are the dates for your diary.

3<sup>rd</sup> class: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June to Pine Forest Art Centre

4<sup>th</sup> class: Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June to Tayto Park

5<sup>th</sup> class: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June to the National Stud

6<sup>th</sup> class: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June to Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre.

A full calendar of events for May and June will be posted on the school website.

### CALENDAR FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2015/216

By now all children will have received a copy of the school Calendar and Holiday List for next year. We hope this will assist with your planning. We appeal to parents not to take children on holiday during school term. In particular the first days of school are extremely important for your child to settle in, to meet and



make new friends and to get used to a new class teacher and new class rules and routines.

## OUR CHARITY WORK

### TRÓCAIRE BOXES



All of this year's Trócaire boxes should be returned to school by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Trócaire needs our help now more than ever, so please get the boxes into us so that Trócaire can help people who are devastated by their circumstances at this time.

### DAFFODIL DAY

Daffodil Day in aid of the Irish Cancer Society took place in school on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** and we had a huge response thanks to the children's generosity and our Bandana Day. Kindness really does count!



### RAINBOWS FUNDRAISER FRIDAY 1ST MAY, 2015



Rainbows is a dedicated free service for children and young people. The Rainbows programme supports children affected by loss because of bereavement, separation or divorce.

All of the Facilitators working in Rainbows do so on a voluntary basis. As with any programme, funds are needed to buy art materials, journals for the children, snacks, drinks etc. Last year we had our first Rainbow's Day and the response from parents and children was fantastic.

Our Rainbow's Day this year is on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. On that day we ask all children in the school to participate by dressing up in as many "Colours of the Rainbow" as they can. We also ask for any financial contribution, even the smallest amount to help fund our programme for next year. A team of 6th class children will display their artistic skills through "nail art" during the day on Friday, this was the brainwave of one of our pupils Anna Sargent. Anna and her team will paint the nails of any children who would like to have their nails painted. They will charge €1 and the money will go into the Rainbow's fund. Thank you in advance!

### PARKING/TRAFFIC REMINDER

Please remember to park carefully and to slow down in and around the school car parks. We have had a number of reports of drivers parking across the gate, on the double yellow lines and even in the middle of the road. This puts everyone in danger, especially the children. If possible, please walk or cycle to school.



### MOVING HOUSE? MOVING SCHOOL?

Parents, please let us know immediately if your child is leaving St. Attracta's Senior School, If you are moving house and intend to leave the school, we would be very grateful if you could let us know as soon as possible so that we can determine class numbers for next year. Also, if you know somebody who has moved into the area and who would like to come to St. Attracta's, please ask them to contact the school office immediately.



### REMINDER RE SCHOOL OPENING/CLOSING HOURS:

School opens for children at 8.50am and the Board of Management accepts responsibility for children at that time. School closes at 2.30pm for all classes and the Board of Management does not accept responsibility for children after these times, except for children



enrolled in after-school activities.

## PERFECT PUPILS

### MATHS EYES

Congratulations!! We are delighted to announce that Rose Hanley in 3<sup>rd</sup> class won the Maths Eyes Competition and received her award at a special ceremony in the Department of Education. With maths eyes people see the mathematics they do every day so mathematics becomes real and meaningful. Well done Rose ...we are very proud of you! You can see her winning entry and many other entries in our school hall any day of the week.



### KANGAROO MATHS

Well done to Tommy McCarthy Doyle who was the only child in the school to win a Gold Certificate in Kangaroo Maths, an online maths competition. The Kangaroo Maths Contest is an annual International Mathematics Contest, designed for all school students between 7-19 years of age. Maith thú Tommy in Ms. McGuinness' Rang 6!



### GYMNASTICS GENIUS!

Outside of school Zoe Gough has achieved great things - she is quietly winning medals galore for her gymnastics talent. Last weekend Zoe won 2 Gold medals, one Nationals Medal and a Regional medal. She has a bright future ahead of her - watch this space!



### 6<sup>th</sup> CLASS CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME



The Service of Light for Confirmation candidates took place on Tuesday night and the symbolic handover of the Baptismal candle from parent to child was a beautiful ceremony well-attended by all. All the children took the pledge to abstain from alcohol and drugs and fifteen of them took the extra step of committing to become Junior Pioneers. Some weeks ago, the children attended a Retreat in Gort Mhuire on the 14<sup>th</sup> April. We shared the most wonderful day of peace and tranquility with our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils where they got to know God better and where Jesus gave meaning to their lives. May the Holy Spirit be with the children in all their endeavours.

### NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR



The wonderful sweet tones of our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils rang out last Tuesday night in the National Basketball Arena as 160 of our boys and girls formed part of a five hundred strong National Children's Choir. The children put St. Attracta's to the top of the tree for choral singing. From classical opera to amhráin as Gaeilge to lively medleys, they sang their hearts out. All the hard work paid off and the children were the real stars of the show. Thanks so much to Ms. O'Leary, Mr. Maguire, Ms. Clifford, Ms. Dolan, Mr. Coughlan, Ms. McDonagh, Ms. Warren and Ms. Neville for teaching the children this fantastic repertoire of 25 songs - it was a lot of hard work to bring the children to this level of song-singing but it was worth every note of it! Well done to all involved!

### BOOK RENTAL SCHEME



Last year the senior school adopted a Book Rental Scheme, which we hope was successful and helped reduce the amount of money parents had to spend on textbooks. In May we will inspect all Book Rental books to check the condition of the books. We will soon be

writing to all parents to get your feedback and to tell you about next year's scheme.

### **A MESSAGE from the BOARD of MANAGEMENT;**

Thank you to those who have already contributed to the Voluntary Contribution which helps in a great way to run the schools and to keep everything going. Thank you also to those of you who have returned the CHY2 form for contributions made last year. Your support – as always – is greatly appreciated.

### **ATTENTION CYCLISTS!**

Please SLOW DOWN as you approach the school and please dismount and walk your bike through the yard. Pupils are asked to lock their bikes if they bring them to school as we can accept no responsibility for bikes on the school premises.



### **PARTY INVITATIONS**

As notified to you in September, it is our policy that Party Invitations should not be given out to children in school or on the school premises. As time goes on, it can create numerous problems. We ask for your co-operation on this matter.



### **TUISMITHEOIRÍ LE CHÉILE**



The support we get from parents is tremendous, whether it's coaching the hurling and camogie teams or training the athletics teams or helping out at the Service of Light or doing our Paired Reading programme or promoting our IT strategy.. No matter what the contribution is, our parents make the school the vibrant community that it is.

Working alongside the teachers who give up their lunchtimes and after school time doing Olympic handball, camogie, hurling, athletics, football or skipping, we all do our best to give all children an equal chance to achieve their goals. Our football tournament has just kicked off now and we hope the children enjoy the fun of it all.

Athletics are also in full swing so a thousand thanks to Damien Moran and Eric Cullen who volunteered to help the teachers with the training for this year's Santry Sports. We are fielding a great team and we are hopeful that the children will have a great day out and they might bring some medals home too! Training takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the commitment from all involved is wonderful!



Sue McDonnell and John Wall work with the camogie and hurling teams and I'm told the children give their heart and soul to the training and matches, sometimes winning, sometimes losing but always giving their all.

### **OOH LA LA!**

Sixth class pupils will soon finish their series of French lessons with Miss Gogarty and this will culminate in a French morning organised where they will speak French, dress up in French colours, dine like the French with bread and cheese, croissants and hot chocolate! What a morning! Quelle matin!



### **SCHOOL CLOSURES**

As notified to you already, both Junior and Senior Schools will be closed on Confirmation Day - **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015.** Both schools will also be closed on **Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May** as the school is being used as a polling station.



FLOWERS FOR THE MAY ALTAR ARE VERY WELCOME ANYTIME!