

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 - from Ireland and abroad. 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 with the teacher, so that class teaching time won't be interrupted.

Céad míle fáilte to our new teachers - Ms. Mulligan, Ms. Quaine and Ms. Healy - we hope they will be very happy here in St. Attracta's Senior School. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you - the parents - for your continued support and we look forward to a fabulous year ahead! Go raibh míle maith agaibh agus 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 no later than 2.30p.m. as we 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 pupils on **Friday 22<sup>nd</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. Rafter, Mr. Bradley and Ms. Miles.

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

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

We're delighted to inform you that great progress has been made on our new boiler house and heating system over the summer months. However, a delay in bringing in the gas line (which is totally outside our control) means that work won't be completed for some weeks yet!

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, so thanks a million Tony!



**You only live once, but if you live right, once is enough!**

## HEALTHY HABITS

We ask all children to follow our Healthy Eating Policy which encourages a healthy active lifestyle both now and in the future. Following requests from parents and Board approval, there will no longer be Friday treats in the Senior School, which simply means that we continue the same policy as the Junior School. All wrappers and leftover apple butts, etc. should be brought home and recycled as we only have paper bins in the Senior School.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Extra-curricular activities for this term will start the week after next. Enrolment will take place on Tuesday morning, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 8.30a.m. in the Halla. While the school facilitates the extra-curricular activities, payment and consent forms will be dealt with directly by the individuals running the activities. 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. **A full list of activities, with times and dates, accompanies this newsletter.**

Details of sporting activities will be dealt with separately by teachers as these are done on a voluntary basis without payment. 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.

## SCHOOL EXPENSES WELCOME ANYTIME!



Thank you to those who have paid the School Expenses of €85 which covers art & craft, photocopying, sports, computer and curriculum resources. The money collected from parents goes directly towards buying materials for the children in the classroom and is a huge help in resourcing the many areas of the curriculum which the Department of Education and Skills does not support financially. Without it we would not be able to provide for the children in the way that we do. As this an expensive time of the year, these school expenses can be paid up to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Parents are invited to contact the principal, Iníon Uí Mháirtín or Ms. Neville in confidence, if you have any difficulty in this area. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

## BOOK RENTAL:

The Book Rental Scheme is going very well and by now pupils 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 on 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, so be prepared!



## PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR PUPILS.

The Parents' Association facilitates the Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for Pupils. Please keep an eye out for this note as it is hugely important that it is returned by the due date. Thanks to all those who organise it - it's a great deal!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

So what's around the corner?

ENROLMENT FOR EXTRA-CURRICULARS:	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September at 8.30a.m.
COFFEE MORNING FOR NEW PARENTS:	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September at 9.00a.m.
MASS FOR THE START OF SCHOOL YEAR:	To be confirmed
SPORT FOR ALL DAY:	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September
GOAL JERSEY DAY:	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October
OCTOBER CAKE SALE:	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October
BOOK WEEK:	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October

## FLAGS ARE FLYING!

We are delighted to report that over the past 15 months, our school received three new flags. What does each one mean?

- In June 2016, we were recognised as a *Digital School of Distinction*, an award which primary schools can attain by demonstrating excellence in their approach to the integration of ICT in learning and teaching. The Digital Schools of Distinction programme aims to promote, recognise and encourage excellence in the use of technology in primary schools.
- The *Gaelbhratach* is aimed at mainstream primary schools where the language of instruction is English. Its purpose is to encourage use of conversational Irish as a natural part of school life and it recognises the central role of the parents in encouraging and supporting Gaeilge as a living language. The Gaelbhratach was awarded to us in May 2017 to indicate our achievement in the use of Irish as a living language by both staff and children.
- *The Active School Flag (ASF)* is awarded to schools that strive to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. The process aims to get more schools, more active, more often. We have always been very active and healthy as a school but receiving this flag in June 2017 recognised our many efforts over the years.

We couldn't have received all three flags in such a short space of time without our fantastic children who embraced all three initiatives. Combined with our Green School status, we now have a challenge ahead of us to continue to promote technology, Gaeilge, healthy, active living and green initiatives. Ar aghaidh le chéile!

## 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 school Siopa:

Homework Journal	Prayer Book
Art Folder	Display Folder
Maths Set	Calculator
Recorder	Genre Copy
Plastic Box	Pritt Stick
Personal towel	

# *SOME ROUTINE REMINDERS for the NEW SCHOOL YEAR*

## **NO DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS PLEASE**

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 directed 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. So, 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. Last year, our regular latecomers lost up to 20 hours of school by being late coming in. 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 or 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.

## **SAFETY IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

With the interests of the safety of all our children at heart, we appeal to all adults to only park in the permitted spaces in the carpark; please do not obstruct gates, park on double yellow lines, on the zig-zag lines at the pedestrian crossings, in the Staff Car Park, or in the Bus Parking area directly outside the swimming pool. Please give good example to the children by using the pedestrian crossings to access the school. Finally, remind all pupils to cross with the lollipop lady! If a child is hurt by careless driving it will already be too late. Thank you!

## **SWIMMING ... SNÁMH**

Swimming classes for Rang 6 will start this Friday and pupils really enjoy the lessons. We're delighted to have the swimming pool on our doorstep and each class 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.



## **UNIFORM**

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

## **TELEPHONE**

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.

## **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 remind children who cycle to school 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 adults) should **never** cycle through the yard as we have already had one accident this year. Cyclists should dismount and walk the bike through school.

## **CAL 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.