

SCOIL SHINSIREACH NAOMH ATHRACHT, MEADOWBROOK,
ÁTH CLIATH 16

UIMHIR ROLLA: 19716B



Ar Aghaidh Le Chéile

NUACHTLITIR #2 DEIREADH-FÓMHAIR 2018 NEWSLETTER #2 OCTOBER 2018

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe there is only one week left to mid-term! The last eight weeks have flown, but we hope everybody has settled into their new surroundings. It was lovely to meet some of our new parents at our recent coffee morning.

Our celebration of our **Mass of Hope** for the start of the new school year took place last week and we were encouraged by the wonderful turnout of parents and grandparents who joined with us on that day also. Thank you for coming.

We were delighted to hear outstanding reports about the behaviour, respect, manners and sportsmanship of our pupils at recent events - that's what we love to hear! Respect to all people – pupils, teachers, SNAs and visitors – must be the cornerstone of what we do!

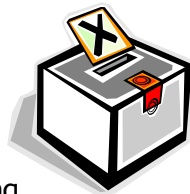
By now, you have possibly heard that the schools have been having issues with **the central heating system**. The good news is that following an application to the Department of Education & Skills, an Emergency Works Grant has been approved and we hope to rectify the problem very shortly. In the meantime, we ask the children to wear extra clothes if they feel cold in classrooms. Going forward, we expect to have warm, cosy rooms for children and teachers to work in, on our return to school after the mid-term break.

And so to October... with some exciting activities and events, the mid-term break is only around the corner. So what else is new?

Le gach dea ghuí - Muireann Máirtín, Príomhoide

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR ELECTION!

St. Attracta's Senior and Junior Schools will be closed on **Friday 26th October 2018** as the school will be used as a Polling Station for the **Presidential Election**.



We will then be closed for the mid-term break, re-opening **at 8.50a.m. on Monday 5th November**.

Enjoy the mid-term break!

CHILD PROTECTION

As an added measure of ensuring that our children are safe in school at all times, we ask parents not to go beyond the reception area of school. Unfortunately, not all parents are known to all staff and as an added safeguarding measure, we ask that you do not go down to your child's class unaccompanied. We will bring your children to you, if you're collecting them. A letter in relation to Garda Vetting will go home to all parents tomorrow. Please ask your child for it, as it pertains to all parents.



PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent teacher meetings will take place this year, during the week of **Monday 12th – Thursday 15th November**. It is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to meet about your child's application to work and progress in school. Specific dates for meetings will be issued as soon as possible. Generally speaking, meetings take place on the Thursday afternoon from 2.30 – 5.00p.m. for parents of children who have more than one child in the school. All other meetings will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time. Please know that throughout the year, if you have concerns about any aspect of your child's time in school, you're always welcome to come and talk to us. The teacher who actually teaches your child is always the first port of call.



WELCOME TO BOOK WEEK 2018 - FÁILTE CHUIG SEACHTAIN NA LEABHAR!

Monday 22nd - Thursday 25th 2018

Book Week is here and the Book Week Committee has been busy preparing for this year's Book Week. We will have many of our usual features, but we also look forward to some new ideas and activities this year. Our Book Fair timetable went out on Friday and it's all go this week, with art, poetry, dressing up, debates and lots of reading. And to mark the occasion, DEAR time is back from 10.40 – 11.00 each day.

- ✚ The overall aim of Book Week is to encourage the children to read and to develop in them a love of books and reading. You, the parents, can help in this regard, by reading with your child and by helping them in their choice of reading material. Book Week is also a wonderful opportunity for pupils to showcase their creativity and even start writing themselves.
- ✚ We hope the children – particularly those who are experiencing their first Senior School Book Week - really enjoy the many and varied activities we have planned. We've been preparing book reviews and book marks, poetry and stories, artwork and 'Book in a Box', soapbox, debates and storytelling. We congratulate the children on their hard work for Book Week.
- ✚ 3rd classes will enjoy a visit from Fionnuala Gyax (actor and scriptwriter), while 4th class pupils will be doing writing workshops with children's author - Jackie Burke - and we're really looking forward to that. Then another author – Erika McGann – will visit 5th class pupils, while poet Enda Wyley will do a workshop with the 6th classes. Enda has published four collections of poetry, is the author of a book for children, *The Silver Notebook*, published by The O'Brien Press and has twice been a winner in the British National Poetry Competition.
- ✚ Our Book Fair is here again and on Wednesday morning, the 10.30 Club of parishioners will visit the school halla for a cuppa and a browse of the Book Fair. All grannies and granddads are also invited to join us for a chat and a look at the display of pupil's work. Bring your favourite book with you!
- ✚ We'll have our prize-giving ceremony on Thursday, when Iníon Uí Mháirtín will visit all classes, but most important of all - don't forget... Read! Read! Read! That's what it's all about!
- ✚ Mums and Dads ... why not visit your local library over the mid-term break? Or visit www.southdublinlibraries.ie to see what events are taking place in your local area and while you're at it, check out www.childrensbooksireland.ie where you'll find so many book-related activities.

Book Week Committee:

Ms McDonnell, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Neville, Ms. Mulligan, Ms. Miles and Iníon Uí Lorcáin

OCTOBER CAKE SALE

Our first Cake Sale of the school year took place on Friday 12th October and first of all I want to say mile buíochas (a thousand thanks) to all the parents who helped out on the day and all the bakers who provided the goodies. As usual, we were blown away by the lovely cakes our pupils and parents produced! So thanks again – we raised a stunning €2321 and the money raised will be used to benefit all our pupils – new hands-on materials for literacy and numeracy, new sports jerseys, new K'nex materials and a lovely new music trolley.

Our second cake sale in February will go towards buying new reversible jerseys for the sporty types and some plants for our school garden – which is headed for a makeover. Watch this space!



GOAL JERSEY DAY

Last Friday 19th was GOAL Jersey Day - the perfect opportunity for our children to proudly wear their county or club GAA colours, soccer or rugby jerseys, in an effort to raise much needed funds for GOAL. GOAL is an international aid charity, whose vision is to see a world where poverty and hunger no longer exist, where communities are prepared for seasonal weather shocks and where every man, woman and child has equal rights and access to resources and opportunities. This ties in with the work we are doing on our Global Goals and on securing our 6th Green Flag. So let's go! Each pupil brought in €2 or more, and we raised €650, which will go directly to GOAL's fundraising activities. Supported by many of our most famous sports stars, learn more at www.goal.ie



ST. ATTRACTA'S STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2018/2019

St. Attracta's Senior School Student Council gives a voice to children in our school. Their ideas, opinions and contributions help make our school the wonderful place that it is. Thanks to all the students for adding their voice to our school! It's a very worthwhile venture in which our pupils really do make a difference! Election Day 2018 took place on Friday 6th October and we thank Mr. Kirwan for organising it. Pupils learned about the democratic voting process as they elected 2 children from each class to represent them on the Council. Congratulations to our newly elected representatives. We wish them well and we hope they will serve their school well and represent their class as we work together to make St. Attracta's the best it can be. Ar aghaidh le chéile!



| Múinteoir | Rang | #1 | #2 |
|----------------|------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ms. Rafter | 3 | Michael Ryan | Jack Glass |
| Mr. Bradley | 3 | Soren Doyle | Cohen Doyle |
| Mr. Coughlan | 3 | Mia Murphy | Mason Parkin |
| Ms. Murphy | 3 | Jacob Coleman | Aliya Kelly |
| Ms. Neville | 4 | Maisie Julian | Hugo Horan & Emma White Kelly |
| Ms. Power | 4 | Daragh Byrne | Danny Cullen |
| Mr. Fitzgerald | 4 | Alec Dorgan | Abigail Casey |
| Ms. McDonnell | 5 | Anna Lane | Katie Byrne & Jack Hayes |
| Ms. McEvoy | 5 | Sinéad Ní Bhaoighill | Shane Donoghue |
| Ms. Nelly | 5 | Sadie Rose O'Neill | Molly Boyle |
| Ms. Mulligan | 5 | Lily Feely | Andrea Ghita |
| Ms. Healy | 6 | Aaron Wall | Ailbhe Garvey |
| Mr. Kenny | 6 | Lucia Lennon | Andrew Gardiner |
| Ms. Miles | 6 | Sofia Galstyan | Riana Rawat |

SPORTS SNIPPETS, A SPORTING TRIUMPH & A HISTORICAL EVENT

As well as lots of hard work, we've also had lots of fun... Although we're very disappointed that our **Sport for All Day** was rained off, we're still keeping fit and active through Busy Breaks, Go Noodle, Yard Runs and much more.

For the first time in the history of St. Attracta's Senior School, our Girls' and Boys' teams went to Santry last week for the Clonliffe Harries Croos Country Run and in our first year ever, our 5th class girls came in 2nd out of over 30 schools and we also succeeded in bringing home two individual medals (well done Philippa McGlynn and Sinéad Ní Bhaoighill!) All our runners did themselves proud. A big thanks to Ms. O'Leary, Ms. McDonagh and Ms. McCormack for the lunchtime training sessions – it all paid off, so maith sibh a bhuachaillí agus a chailíní.

Our GAA players continue to show super skills, crazy commitment and never-ending enthusiasm. That along with the hard work of their teachers has resulted in some great victories and some sad losses, but we're very proud of them all!

Soccer, Olympic Handball, Basketball – it's all go, so win, lose or draw, let's keep going. A big thank you to the parents who always support us and give lifts to matches. If you would like to join your local GAA Club all information is available on www.ballinteerstjohns.com

RANG 6 - SCIENTISTS OF THE FUTURE?



In preparation for secondary school, our 6th class pupils have started a 10 week Science programme with Dr. Niamh Dorman, who is a scientist and microbiologist. We do not charge for this input, but all pupils are asked to have a display folder and to do the homework assigned. This will help them to be well-prepared for their science lessons. So many of our past pupils have gone on to study science, inspired by these Friday morning lessons. Go raibh mile maith agat, Niamh!

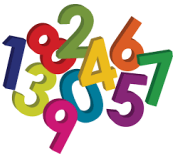
HALLOWE'EN SAFETY

As the mid-term approaches, Halloween is just around the corner. As per our Code of Good Behaviour, bringing dangerous items to school is considered very serious unacceptable behaviour and will be dealt with accordingly.

Therefore we warn all our children to keep away from bangers and fireworks. Stay away from bonfires unless supervised by a responsible adult. Enjoy Halloween but **stay safe** and keep others safe too.



MATHS WEEK



Maths Week has just finished, but you can still log on to www.mathsweek.ie for games, puzzles and ideas. We've had great fun with, maths trails, problem-solving and challenges. Last year, the school registered for Mangahigh and again, this year, we're registering all pupils for the year. All pupils will be asked to bring in €2 and the remaining cost will be covered by the school - we encourage pupils to make the most of their Manga membership as feedback from parents has been very positive. Reminder coming soon! And finally... no better way to celebrate Maths Week than to know your tables off by heart - it's key to being brilliant at Maths! So boys and girls - get out those tables books and go for it!

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

The Board of Management will soon be in contact with you about this year's Voluntary Contribution Appeal. Following requests from parents to bring it forward (as far away from Christmas as possible), the Boards of both schools will write to you this week as we have no choice but to use those funds to bridge the gap between the Departmental grants we receive and the constant demand to pay for school upgrades and the needs of our schools. So thanks again in anticipation of all your support. All income and expenditure will be explained in the letter going home tomorrow.



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Under the Education Welfare Act, schools are obliged to report to the National Education Welfare Board the name of any child who misses 20 school days or more in any given year. Parents are also obliged to inform the school, in writing, of the date/s and reason/s why children are absent. So, if your child is absent from school, an absence note in the homework journal must be filled out when they return to school. Please don't send a child to school following an absence without a note. We ask all pupils to make a special effort to be in school every day unless they are sick, in which case the best place for them is at home. Also... if children are late for school, they must sign in at the office and pupils going home early must be signed out by their parents. This is for your child's protection and safety.

A PACK FOR YOU!



Tomorrow, each child in the school has received the following important notes, the first three of which must be read by you - the parent - signed and returned to the school by Thursday 25th October. The Acceptable Internet Usage Policy must also be signed by your child.

- RSE Information Note as part of our SPHE programme - **please read, sign and return**
- Photo Permission Form - **please read, sign and return**
- Acceptable Internet Usage Policy (AIUP) **please read, sign and return**
- Webwise Tips for Parents

NATURE ALL AROUND US

We are blessed to be surrounded by so many green areas and to be able to see the Dublin mountains from the school playground.



Our pupils can learn so much from the natural environment and we're delighted once again to be starting the OWLS programme with our 3rd class pupils, which started last week! In addition to that, Pat Hunt from Heritage Ireland is currently doing an Autumn programme with our 6th class pupils. As Spring approaches, he will do five sessions with our 4th class pupils. We are so blessed to have such easy access to nature all around us. Let's appreciate it!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

Extra-curricular activities have started and are going well. We remind pupils that the high standards of behaviour we expect throughout the school day must continue on into these activities, no matter how different or exciting they are.



We wish to highlight problems relating to extra-curricular activities as parents have started driving into the yard to collect children at 3.30p.m. Several parents have expressed concern about cars driving at speed and reversing, endangering the lives of the children. Parents should park in the public car parks and collect their children as they would at normal going home time.

