

St. Attracta's Senior School Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht
Nuachtlitir Samhain 2018 November Newsletter

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that we are in the last two weeks of November! So much has been done and yet we've a lot to do before the end of term. So firstly, let me thank each and every parent who came to the Parent/Teacher meetings. This was a great opportunity for parents and teachers to meet about your child's work and progress in school. We're pleased to report that we've had a near 100% turnout - testament to the commitment of parents to their children's education and progress. The teachers also found the meetings really helpful and enjoyed meeting with you.



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. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

Le gach dea ghuí,

Muireann Máirtín, Príomhoide

SLÁN AGUS BEANNACHT

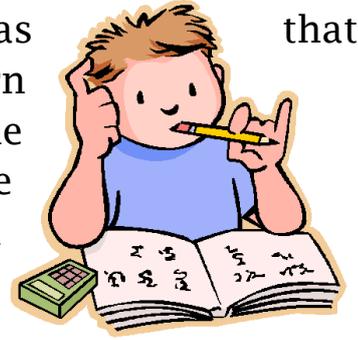
It is with great sadness (for us) that we say goodbye to Anne Kilcline - our beloved school secretary - as she starts a new chapter in her life. While we are delighted for her, we will miss her but wish her good spaces as she leaves us. For the past 16 years, Anne has been the glue that has kept our school together. Maya Angelou once said *'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'* One of Anne's greatest gifts was how she made everybody feel - and that was special! She knew every child by name and she always had a kind word for everybody. No matter how busy she was, you always felt you were her number one priority and that is a wonderful gift. We thank Anne for her dedication and commitment to St. Attracta's Senior School and we wish her all the very best in the future. Go raibh míle, míle maith agat Anne. You will be sorely missed. Ní bheidh do leithéid ann arís!



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER

HOMEWORK

Two issues arose at the Parent Teacher Meetings. One was that a number of teachers and parents expressed concern about a few pupils in each class who have become careless about writing down their homework on the basis that Mam or Dad will 'check it in the evening on WhatsApp'! We believe that in the Senior School we should be training children to take more responsibility (not less) for their own homework, for remembering messages etc. and for bringing news home to you. If all this is being done for them, when exactly will they become the independent young people they are capable of being? Secondly, there seems to be a lack of clarity in relation to how much time should be spent on homework. The full homework policy is on our school website at www.sasns.ie. But we also have a 2 page summary which we are sending home with this letter and which we hope you will find useful. Bear in mind that the time to be spent on homework is a guide only and some children will finish earlier than others, just as some pupils will take a bit longer.



STRANGER DANGER!

As the evenings grow darker once again we ask parents to tell your children when going home

- to leave promptly after school ends
- not to walk home alone, if possible
- to follow a route approved by you
- when crossing the Broadford Road to cross with the lollipop lady and at all times to
- avoid talking to strangers
- avoid approaching cars or vans they don't recognize or speaking to people they don't know.



It's very important that in unforeseen circumstances, children should know exactly what to do. Make sure your child knows exactly where to go after school and where to meet you if being collected. In the event of extra-curricular activities being cancelled, children are encouraged to use the school phone to contact you. **Please make sure your child knows your telephone number off by heart.** We ask all parents to equip their children with the necessary skills to deal with situations where they don't feel safe or where they feel uncomfortable. We also work on this in school on a regular basis as part of our Stay Safe programme.

REMINDER!

€2 to register for Mangahigh - School will pay the balance.

KINDNESS COUNTS!

Last Tuesday, we celebrated World Kindness Day and we celebrated this by chatting and reading about the way we can make a difference in our world. We teach the children about kindness and we ask them to play their part.



And today - November 22nd - is Thanksgiving Day, a special holiday in America. Here in St. Attracta's, it is a great time to be thankful and appreciate who we have and what we have. Although Thanksgiving has historical roots in giving thanks for a good harvest, we'll celebrate it in school as a day for thinking about all that is good in our lives.

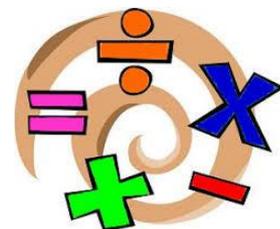
SPEAKING OF KINDNESS - CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

We would like to congratulate Mr. Bhagwan - our local chemist - who recently celebrated 40 years of business in Ballinteer. Mr. Bhagwan has long been a supporter of local schools. To celebrate his 40 years in business, he gave us a most generous donation of €5000, which he asked to be used for the benefit of the children. While the first €1200 will be spent on a defibrillator, what better way to use the money than on what the children think is important, so we'll hand over to the boys and girls and see what they come up with. Go raibh míle maith agat, Mr. Bhagwan!



MATHS TABLE QUIZ

Next Wednesday 28th November, we will hold our fifth annual Maths Table Quiz. Each year St. Attracta's Senior School hosts this quiz which challenges the best maths minds of South County Dublin with really difficult maths problems and puzzles. This year, we expect 18 schools to participate. The children are currently checking up on their maths to see who the final team for St. Attracta's will be. Unfortunately, we can only have 4 pupils on the team, but we have more than 20 pupils who are ready for the challenge. The final 8 candidates are Daniel Coleman, Emily Thomas, Jack Murphy, Cormac McKeon, Ailbhe Garvey, Katie McHugh, Sophie Shorten O'Reilly and Darragh Fox. Thanks to Mr. Kenny for organising the quiz and to the team of teachers who are on the committee. Good luck to the team on the night.



SPORTS

Our Olympic handball teams are doing really well and the first round of matches took place a few weeks ago. All four teams have gone through to the next round. Well done to all the boys and girls for their commitment to lunchtime practices and to Ms. O'Leary, Ms. Healy, Ms. McDonagh and Mr. Kenny for training them.



UNIFORM ALERT!

We ask all parents to work with us to ensure that children are wearing the correct uniform and wearing it neatly. Top buttons should be closed on all shirts, ties should be tied fully and shirts should be tucked in. Let's not let standards slip - let's be proud of our school uniform!



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT/MICROSOFT

At the end of the month, our 4th and 5th class pupils will enjoy a visit from trained volunteers who will help us open a window on the wider world! Junior Achievement Ireland is a national charity, established in 1996, which aims to inspire and



INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

motivate young students to complete their education and reach their full potential. Junior Achievement brings trained business volunteers into the classroom to teach enterprise skills to young people. These primary school programmes - in conjunction with Microsoft - show young people the vast array of opportunities for them to use their talents, imagination and creativity when they grow up. So we hope the children will really benefit from and enjoy these sessions.

JUNIOR SCHOOL CONCERT - LATE OPENING



Christmas
Concert

Those of you who have children in the Junior School know that the school will open late on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th December. The Senior School will open at the usual time of 8.50a.m. In spite of requests from one or two parents, we can't justify a late opening for both schools this year as half of the Senior School pupils have no brothers or sisters in the Junior School and it would mean a majority of working parents would be inconvenienced, without due notice. However, as in previous years, no child will be marked late if they only arrive to school at the later time of 10.00a.m. This will hopefully help parents who have children in both schools.

A SHOUT OUT TO OUR NEIGHBOURS

Dundrum Parish Pastoral Centre is holding its very first Christmas Craft Market on Sunday 2nd December from 10am to 5pm. All are invited to join in the Christmas cheer! Quality Handmade Crafts, Christmas Gifts, Tea and Cakes, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine, Fun Activities, Christmas Carols, and of course Santa Himself! It's all happening right here in the Parish Pastoral Centre, so come on down and join the fun!



LET'S KEEP EVERYBODY SAFE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL!

**NO CHASING, NO FOOTBALL, NO CYCLING, NO CLIMBING TREES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS
OR RUNNING THROUGH THE CHURCH GARDEN – MORNING OR AFTERNOON!!!**