

ST. ATTRACTA'S SENIOR SCHOOL, MEADOWBROOK, DUBLIN 16.

NUACHTLITIR na CÁSCA 2017

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe we're nearing the end of our second term and it has been both a hectic and productive term. We have had a few firsts - our first official soccer team, the introduction of school hoodies for Rang 6 and our first ever 6th class visit to the War Museum. There is now great excitement about Annalise Murphy's visit to the school on Monday next. What an honour to welcome an



Olympic athlete to our school! We also take this opportunity to congratulate our own Ms. O'Regan for her recent participation in the Sailing Championships with Team Ireland in Los Angeles.

After Easter, we'll enjoy Active Schools' Week and hopefully by mid-May, we will have secured our Active Schools' Flag agus an Gaelbhratach. Tá na páistí go léir ag caint as Gaeilge go nádúrtha i rith an lae and they are constantly active so here's hoping that a few additional flags can be raised on behalf of St. Attracta's Senior School.

Guimid Cáisc shona oraibh go léir. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and restful Easter!

Le gach dea ghuí,

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir!
Muireann Máirtín, Príomh Oide Wishing you all a very happy Easter!

THE WAY OF THE CROSS: THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS CEREMONY

All parents are invited to attend the children's presentation of the Stations of the Cross at 11.00a.m. next Friday 7th April. (School closes at 12 noon.) As the pupils are not in school during Holy Week, we feel this is a fitting way to mark Good Friday – even it is a week early! All are welcome! Fáilte!



And then on Good Friday itself, co-ordinated by Ms. Neville, the parish will have a dramatisation of the story of Jesus Christ's passion and death. This will take place in the Oratory at on Friday 14th April and will involve pupils, past pupils and young adults with music provided by the Folk Group along with our own pupils.

EASTER PARADE

We invite all children to make their own Easter Bonnet, Crazy Caps and Mad Hats out of recycled materials. We'll have an Easter Parade on Tuesday 4th April when all children who have recycled creations can come to the halla and parade their wonderful creations. The theme can be related to Spring or to Easter and there will be a prize for the best bonnet/hat from each class. Judging will be based on creativity, originality and best use of recycled materials.



EASTER RAFFLE



Thanks to Robert Malone (Jamie and Anna's Dad), who donated a huge Easter Egg from Fruitworld in Stillorgan, which we will raffle before Easter to raise funds for our very special noticeboards. (See www.abal.ie) As always, tickets are 50c each or 3 for €1 on sale tomorrow! Runner up prizes include smaller Easter Eggs and Homework passes. So remember, if you're not in, you can't win!!!

PAIRED READING

Paired Reading with Parents has started and our first session will finish at Eastertime. The second session will continue for 5 weeks after Easter, after which we'll have a reading party! More parent volunteers are welcome – we really value your help.



EASTER HOLIDAYS

Both schools will close on Friday 7th April at 12 noon and will re-open on Monday 24th April at 8.50a.m.

DAFFODIL DAY

We celebrated a wonderful Daffodil Day on Friday 24th March 2017 and raised much needed funds on Daffodil Day for a very worthy charity. The Student Council requested that everyone would dress in yellow (or green)! This went down really well – thanks to all for the wonderful response!



CHILD PROTECTION and GARDA VETTING

The Board of Management has a responsibility in relation to coaches, mentors, volunteers and parents who assist in the school on a regular basis. It is now mandatory for all such volunteers to be e-vetted.

All parents have been invited to be Garda Vetted for our school, so that they can be free to accompany children and classes on outings and excursions. If they are not Garda Vetted, then they cannot be used in a supervisory or any other capacity. A note went home last term and now a substantial number of parents have applied for and been given Garda Clearance to work with us in the school. There is now a 2-3 week turnaround on this so if you would like to help with paired reading, school tours, sports days etc. then you must be on our database of parents approved for same.



- To start the process, you simply need to collect a form from Anne in the office and to return it with two forms of identification.
- The Office of the Child Safeguarding and Protection Service will then contact you and ask you to complete the vetting application online.
- We will then be notified of the vetting disclosure in relation to your application, after which we would be delighted to have your help.

On behalf of the Board of Management, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the help you have given us and continue to give us here in St. Attracta's. It is our legal obligation to ensure that E-vetting has been completed in relation to parents and all visiting staff in our school.

ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL



Parents have a responsibility to have their children attend school every day. Under the EDUCATION WELFARE ACT, schools are legally 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 your child returns 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. Please be mindful that days clock up very quickly for children who take holidays during term time. We are now working very closely with TÚSLA to monitor and improve attendance and to support parents who may be experiencing difficulties in this regard. However, the onus is on us to make a referral once a child exceeds 20 days out of school.

DRINK AWARE TALK FOR PARENTS

We had a very enlightening and informative talk last night organised by the Parents' Association. While the attendance was small, the message was very helpful. If you didn't manage to get to the talk then why not visit www.drinkaware.ie for lots of help, advice and useful statistics.

drinkaware.ie

WALK WITH ME

We have two more weeks of our Lenten Time-Out on a Thursday evening from 8.00 – 9.00p.m. It is truly wonderful to see the children who turn out each Thursday for singing, readings and reflections as part of the folk group. This is not a school event but a parish event, but if you need some time to remind yourself what Lent is all about and to bring God back into your life, this is a lovely simple way to do so, especially if your child is in 5th or 6th class.



Host Families Required: Rockbrook International, Rockbrook House, Edmondstown Road, Dublin 16. If interested, contact 01-4936692