

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. This year, we have new pupils from Poland, France, Spain, America, Australia, Lithuania, China, India and of course Ireland, as well as our new 3rd class pupils. 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 so that class teaching time won't be interrupted.



We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our four new teachers – Mr. Kenny, Ms. Kinkead, Mr. Bradley and Ms. O'Brien – we hope they will be very happy here in St. Attracta's Senior School. Our warmest wishes go to Ms. McKernan on her recent marriage and on her move to Limerick. We also send our best wishes to Mrs. Clifford on the birth of her beautiful baby boy.

We look forward to a fabulous year ahead. 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 not later than 2.30p.m. as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

LIGHT for LIFE



Can you spare a minute or two (or thirty) to join with us in praying for migrants who are seeking refuge in Europe? On Wednesday, we will light up the Oratory with a candle per class, representing the thoughts and prayers of the children in each class who have been praying for the refugees and migrants who are making their way across Europe seeking a place to live in peace and harmony. We are blessed in our own lives – so why not join us for half an hour of prayer, music and meditation?

Where? **St. Attracta's Oratory**

When? **Wednesday afternoon from 2.30 – 3.00p.m.**

COMPUTER ROOM UPDATE

Our computer room has now been revamped and upgraded thanks to the wonderful generosity of our parents, the fundraising efforts of our school, the support of the Parents' Association and the work of the IT Committee. And so we now have 16 new computers in our computer room and our infrastructure throughout the school has been upgraded. One of our parents - Joe McGlynn – did great work over the summer and the benefits are being felt throughout the school. Thanks Joe!



Over the summer, our IT expert Paul Heffernan spent weeks on end getting everything in order for the return to school. Supported by past pupil Matthew Dorman, they make a great double act! We are particularly grateful to one of our parents – John Wall – who spearheaded the planning and direction of the work and who has worked tirelessly on our behalf. Our eLearning Development Plan is progressing well thanks to his direction and supported by our IT Committee, we are confident that we will soon be able to apply for Digital School Status. Watch this space for more IT news!

N.B. Behaviour before and after school while on school grounds (and elsewhere) must always be the very best – no running, chasing, shouting, swinging of bags, fighting please!

REQUEST

Any chance somebody out there is replacing their television ... we're looking for a flat screen TV – 28 inch or more – which we will use to display what goes on in St. Attracta's Senior School. Our hope is to have a rolling display in the foyer for all to see. We live in hope!



CHARITY WORK - KNITTERS & NATTERERS

Our Knitters and Natterers Club last year crafted a beautiful patchwork quilt which will now be donated to the Laura Lynn Foundation. Have a look at our website for pictures of the quilt which was lovingly knitted by the children each weekday at lunchtime. Led by Sarah Wall, Cora McCarthy, Claudia Moran and Muireann O'Reilly, the girls sowed it together and it was finished off by Georgina Keogh and Geraldine O'Sullivan – two of our past parents. Well done to all involved!



CRUMLIN HOSPITAL & THE HOSPICE



We're delighted to report that thanks to the generosity of last year's 6th class pupils, we donated a total of € to Crumlin Children's Hospital. Many of our children sometimes need the help and care of the hospitals and it's great to be able to support them like this.

The teachers also held a Hospice Coffee Morning last week and they raised €250 for a very worthy cause.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

COFFEE MORNING FOR NEW PARENTS:	Friday 25 th September – 9.00a.m.
SPORT FOR ALL DAY:	Friday 25 th September – 11.00 – 2.30
MASS FOR THE START OF SCHOOL YEAR:	To be confirmed
GOAL JERSEY DAY:	Friday 9 th October
OCTOBER CAKE SALE:	Friday 16 th October

PART B of BOOK LIST WELCOME ANYTIME!



Thank you to those who have paid and continue to pay the €75 Part B of the Book List which covers art and craft, photocopying, sports, computer and curriculum resources. The money collected from parents goes directly towards buying materials for the children. Therefore it helps with the day to day running of the school and without it we would not be able to provide for the children in the way that we do. The

fact that so many parents have paid Part B is a huge help to our school in resourcing the many areas of the curriculum which the Department of Education and Skills does not financially support. If you have simply forgotten, prompt payment would be greatly appreciated. Payment can also be made gradually if that suits better. Parents are invited to contact the principal, Iníon Uí Mháirtín or Ms. Doyle, in confidence if they have any difficulty paying Part B. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

BOOK RENTAL:

The Book Rental Scheme has gone really well and by now every pupil in the school has received all their Book Rental books – apart from 5 pupils who should have all books by mid-week. The delay has been caused by some books being out of print. Any problems or queries in relation to the scheme – please call us at 01-2951627.

Next year, commitments to the Book Rental Scheme will be required by April and in the meantime 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.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES have started and we're delighted to see so many of our pupils involved in music, art, computer, chess, drama, cookery and sporty activities. A small number of places are still available in Art on Wednesday, but please ring the school if you're interested.



CALLING ALL PARENTS OF NEW PUPILS.....

We'll hold our coffee morning for parents of new 3rd class pupils (and other new pupils) on **Friday 25th September at 9.00a.m.** (just after dropping children to school)

This will give us a chance to meet you and to check that your children have settled in to the Senior School. 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 meet the 3rd class teachers - Ms. McEvoy, Ms. Neville & Ms. Carey.

We look forward to seeing you! ~ Iníon Uí Mháirtín, Príomh Oide.



GREEN PASSPORT

If any child in the school has completed (or almost completed) their Green Passports, please bring them in to school tomorrow, Tuesday for collection by Mrs. Doyle. Make sure your name is on it! For those of you who haven't heard of the Green Passport, they encourage you, your child and extended family to spend less time watching TV or playing computer games and more time exercising, playing board games, exploring the parks and the coast of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown and spending quality time with family members.



SOME ROUTINE REMINDERS

BEWARE OF DOGS!



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.

A CHECKLIST!

All pupils should by now have the necessary



- copies, books and full uniform (labelled of course!)
- art folder & display folder
- prayer book
- homework journal
- a plastic box or 'green bag' in which to store books
- a personal hand towel for use after visiting the bathroom

ROLL CALL , TIMEKEEPING & PUNCTUALITY

The D.E.S. has issued a new circular (0028/2013) directing schools 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 9.30a.m. will be marked absent.

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. Let's start as we mean to continue.

Last year, our most regular latecomers lost between 6 and 19 hours of school time by being late for school. 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 as this is too dangerous. Nor can we let them 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.

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.

SAFETY IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT



With the interests of the safety of all our children at heart we appeal to all adults - only park in the permitted spaces on both sides of the school; please do not obstruct gates, park on double yellow lines, on the zig-zag lines at the pedestrian crossing on Broadford Road, in the Staff Car Park, or in the Bus Parking area directly outside the D.L.R., Meadowbrook. Please give good example to children by using the pedestrian crossings to access the school. If a child is hurt by careless driving it will already be too late. Remind all pupils to cross with lollipop lady and be aware of roadworks on Broadford Road! Thank you for your co-operation.

UNIFORM



Full school uniform should be worn on all days except P.E. days when the school tracksuit will be worn. We ask parents to ensure that the uniform is worn tidily and that shirts should be fully buttoned when children come to school. Please ensure all 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 strictly prohibited.

TELEPHONE CALLS

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 bag in case they need to make a phone call home for forgotten items.



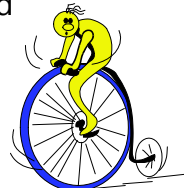
HEALTHY HABITS

We ask all children to follow our Healthy Eating Policy with simple treats on Friday only – not a sweetfest!!! We want to encourage a healthy lifestyle both now and in the future. This week will culminate – weather permitting – in our Sport for All Day – an unexpected treat for the children in the first term.



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 encourage our children to walk or to cycle to school, but we remind you that we can accept no responsibility for the care or security of bicycles brought to school. Bicycles should be locked in school at all times. Children (or parents) should **never** cycle through the yard. Cyclists should dismount and walk the bike through the school grounds.



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.



SWIMMING ... SNÁMH

Swimming classes have started and the pupils are really enjoying the lessons. We're delighted to have the swimming pool on our doorstep and all classes 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.



**Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to a great year ahead of us!
Go raibh mile maith agaibh!!!**

