

NUACHTLITIR #7 **AIBREÁN 2014 APRIL** NEWSLETTER #7

Dear Parents,

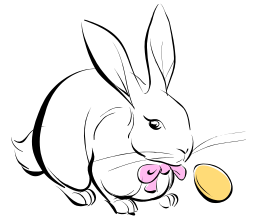
It's hard to believe we're nearing the end of our second term and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter! A copy of the Easter ceremonies which will take place in the Oratory accompanies this newsletter. See below for further details of Youth Liturgies.

This year St. Attracta's Senior National school will adopt a Book Rental Scheme, which we hope will save parents money over a period of time. It is a big undertaking but we hope it will reduce the amount of money parents will have to spend on textbooks. After Easter we will write to all parents explaining how the system works and we'll look forward to your feedback. A full Calendar of Events for the final busy term will be issued with the May newsletter (due out on Thursday 1st May).

Le gach dea ghuí,

Muireann Máirtín, Príomh Oide

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir!
Wishing you all a very happy Easter.



RAINBOWS



Rainbows is a dedicated free service for children and young people. The Rainbows programme supports children affected by loss because of bereavement, separation or divorce.

St. Attracta's Senior School will be a dedicated Rainbows Site from September 2014. We hope to be in a position to facilitate any children attending either of our two schools, and other children in the surrounding area who may have suffered a recent loss.

This message is twofold:

- ✚ Firstly to make you aware that this service will be available to your child/children in September. A dedicated letter will be sent to each family nearer the time to alert you to the times, dates etc.
- ✚ Secondly we need to fundraise in order to run the programme. This is the first time we have done this in St. Attracta's School. All our facilitators are voluntary and give of their free time for nothing. However, we need to buy materials for the children. Some of you may be running or walking in the forthcoming Mini-marathon. If you have not decided on a charity yet perhaps you might consider Rainbows. Also we will have a Rainbows Awareness Day at the end of April, when we will explain Rainbows to the children. Some children from our school have already experienced a Rainbows programme in Ballinteer and have benefited hugely from this. We'll also run a Rainbows Dress-Up day when we will encourage children to dress up in as many colours as they can and we'll look for a donation of €2 per child to set up our Rainbows Centre.

Look out for further information about the Rainbows Programme. Signs will also be posted on the entrance door.

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. on this Friday 11th 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 a week later - on Good Friday itself - we will have a dramatisation of the story of Jesus Christ's passion and death. This will take place in the Oratory at 7.30p.m. on Friday 18th April and will involve pupils, past pupils and young adults with music provided by Joe Dunne and the Folk Group (joined by our own pupils).

DAFFODIL DAY...

Thanks to all those children who brought in their Daffodil Day money in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. Unfortunately a lot of the children forgot but many thanks to those who remembered ... and there's always next year!



TRÓCAIRE BOXES...

...can be returned to school after the Easter holidays. We have extended the collection date to Thursday 1st May, but we cannot accept boxes after that date as Trócaire will be collecting at 12.30p. m. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this very worthy cause. This year we have also invited Trócaire to give a talk to the children on their work and on how the money the children donate is put to good use.

JUST FOR A MINUTE WITH JESUS

We had a wonderful and unexpected response to our Tuesday afternoon gathering of pupils, parents and teachers who gathered together to spend a few moments of quiet reflection, prayer & music with Jesus after school on Tuesdays during Lent. Our last get-together took place yesterday afternoon from 2.30 - 3.05p.m. If you haven't already been with us why not come along next year when we'll start up again for the season of Advent? Our small gathering of about 40 has grown a little closer to Jesus by spending some time with Him. Thanks for coming along boys and girls!



ATTENTION CYCLISTS!

Please SLOW DOWN as you cycle around the school and please dismount and cycle your bike through the yard. Pupils are asked to lock their bikes if they bring them to school as we can accept no responsibility for bikes on the school premises.



DOG OWNERS



We ask parents and others not to bring dogs onto the school grounds - even if on a lead. Nor should dogs be left unattended outside the school while children are being dropped off. Although you may think of your dog as a pet, not everybody shares this view. Some children are terrified of dogs, others are allergic to dogs, others may just go to pet a dog and find they are not as friendly to strangers as they are to their owners. So please keep dogs at home - stray dogs on school grounds during the day will be reported to the Dog Warden.

PARTY INVITATIONS

As notified to you in September, it is our policy that Party Invitations should not be given out to children in school or on the school premises. As time goes on, it can create numerous problems. We ask for your co-operation on this matter.



BASKETBALLERS! The Basketball league is now nearing an end and the final takes place this Thursday afternoon at 1.00p.m. Thanks to all the teachers who have sacrificed lunchtimes to promote the sport. With so many children involved, we can only give them a flavour of basketball, but a very exciting flavour it is! Basketball skills are also taught to all classes as part of PE lessons. The finalists are as follows and we wish them all well on Thursday:



| Team U (Junior) | Team Q (Junior) | Team C (Senior) | Team Z (Senior) |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Patrick Keys | John Clair | Conor Doyle | Max Colgan |
| Ella Proctor | Anna Doyle | Thomas Dunne | Adam Manning |
| Kalin Ajimokum | Claudia Moran | Alex Ivers | Paul Harcourt |
| Jakub Nowak | Aaron Dorgan | Sara Priestley | Ivan Yang |
| Elyse Malone | Hannah Doyle | Grace Priestley | Orla Holland |
| | | | Petar Martic |

6th CLASS CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME



The 'You Shall Be My Witnesses' Confirmation Programme' has been very successful this year. We thank Sr. Anna for all her organisation of the programme. We now look forward to the Retreat in Gort Mhuire on the 29th April. We anticipate a day of peace and tranquillity where the children will get to know God better and where Jesus will give meaning to their lives. May the Holy Spirit be with the children in all their endeavours.

MATHS MASTERS TABLE QUIZ

Comghairdeas le Scoil Naithí who won this year's Maths Masters Table Quiz which took place on Thursday 27th March in the Senior School Hall. We had a great night with lots of mathematical fun, and spot prizes throughout the evening. The brains were buzzing and some of the questions were truly challenging but it was no bother to our maths wizards. We were ably represented by Ruby Fitzpatrick, Max Colgan, Matthew Nally and Matthew Broe (with Daniel Guastalla as sub). Thanks to all who helped on the night! Looking forward to next year already!



HANDWRITING COMPETITION

Thanks to Ms. Carey's organisation, the winners of this year's INTO Handwriting Competition from each class have been decided but we'd like to compliment all the children on the very high standard of penmanship shown. This excellent handwriting should transfer to all written exercises (homework and schoolwork) and not be reserved for special occasions such as handwriting competitions!!!



The children whose entries are going forward this year are.....

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Leah Kavanagh | Lukas Maciulskis | Alyssa Murphy | Max Colgan |
| Emma McGrath | Zoe Mulvey | Harry Byrne | Robyn Geoghegan |
| Jakub Nowak | Mia Lamon | Luke Cowzer | Ciara Kavanagh |
| Daniils Giriks | Danielle Clune | Jules Lennon | Issy Brady |
| Dan Coughlan | Alisha Keenan | Luke Cohen | |

OOH LA LA!

Sixth class finished their series of 10 French lessons last Friday when they enjoyed a French morning organised by Ms. Bernadette Gogarty. They spoke French, they dressed up in French colours, they dined like the French with bread and cheese, croissants and hot chocolate! What a morning! Quelle matin!



A LITTLE TREAT

For many years now Ms. Aoife Reilly has been teaching Drama in our school on a Thursday afternoon and the children absolutely love it. At the end of each series of lessons the children put on a little play for their parents. This year we thought it would be nice if other children could also see the drama so we have a travelling show taking place on Thursday afternoon - for 3rd, 4th and 5th class. And don't forget! You too can join the final session of drama which takes place after Easter. Details from the office.



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Gardaí in Dundrum for providing a series of 5 lessons for the 5th class pupils. Already the guards have spoken to the children about Bullying, Cyberbullying and Vandalism. After Easter (on the Monday we return to school) it will be the Road Safety and Pedal Cycle Safety Talk. We'd like to thank the Community Guard - Jeanette - and her colleagues for their interest and support and indeed for all the work the Gardaí do in our local area.



ATHLETICS

A thousand thanks to Damien Moran and Eric Cullen who volunteered to help Ms. O'Callaghan and Ms. Ryan with the training for this year's Santry Sports. The children train every Tuesday and Thursday. We are fielding a great team and we are hopeful that the children will have a great day out and they might bring some medals home too! Training takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the commitment from all involved is wonderful!



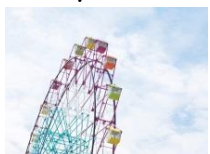
BINGO

Thanks to the wonderful organisation of the Parents' Association and the fabulous Shay Byrne we had a very successful BINGO NIGHT on the 13th March. It was a great night out for everybody and a marvelous fundraiser for both schools. So thanks to all involved and to the 'full house' of supporters who turned up for the occasion! And just around the corner - believe it or not - is the Summer Fair!



SUMMER FAIR

This year's Summer Fair will take place on Sunday 15th June from 12.00 noon - 4.00p.m. Last week, a newsletter went home from the Parents' Association - please check that you got it and if not, it may still be in your child's schoolbag or if it has disappeared, you can get a copy of it from the office. Lots of help is needed on the day and an open meeting will take place on Wednesday 30th April at 8.00p.m. in the Junior School halla. All participants eager to help with the Summer Fair are invited to attend and thanks in advance!!!!



SCHOOL CLOSURES

As notified to you already, both Junior and Senior Schools will be closed on Confirmation Day - **Thursday 22nd May 2014.** Both schools will also be closed on **Friday, 23rd May 2014** to facilitate Local & European elections - the school is being used as a polling station.

