

SCOIL SHINSIREACH NAOMH ATHRACHT
MEADOWBROOK ÁTH CLIAITH 16
NUACHTLITIR #1 18.09.2013 NEWSLETTER #1

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 12 new students as well as our new 3rd class pupils. We hope all our children will be very happy here in St. Attracta's Senior School. A special welcome to our students from other countries - we hope they are all settling in well and enjoying Ireland. 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 look forward to a fabulous year ahead. Gach rath ar an obair!

Muireann Mairtín, Príomh Oide
OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS

NO CLIMBING TREES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS OR PLAYING IN THE CHURCH GARDEN - MORNING OR AFTERNOON!!!



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.

BEGINNING OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR MASS

Our celebration of **Mass** for the start of the new school year will take place on **Monday 23rd September at 10.00a.m.** All parents are welcome and we look forward to a great turnout. With God's help, we'll have a great year. We congratulate Mrs. Clifford (Ms. O'Callaghan) on her marriage over the summer and we welcome Ms. O'Leary, Ms. Coleman and Ms. O'Dwyer back to our school.



SCHOOL CLOSURE! REFERENDUM DAY FRIDAY, 4th OCTOBER 2013



The Board of Management has received notification from the Office of the Returning Officer that the school is being used as a polling station for the referendum on Friday, 4th October. Therefore both schools will be closed on that date. A full list of closures for the year was sent out to all parents before the summer and is available from the office.

CALLING ALL PARENTS OF NEW PUPILS

We'll hold our coffee morning for parents of new 3rd class pupils (and other new pupils) on Wednesday 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!

Mobile phones are not allowed in school.

If you have any queries about this policy, please contact the principal.

A MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

The closing date for receipt of applications for places in Junior Infants for September 2014 is 2.30p.m. on Friday, 31st January 2014.



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.

PART B of BOOK LIST WELCOME ANYTIME!



Thank you to those who have paid 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.

CREDIT UNION SAVINGS CLUB



Maria from the Dundrum Credit Union spoke to our pupils at Assembly about the DCU Savings scheme and we encourage all our pupils to join this very worthwhile scheme. If your child would like to join the Dundrum Credit Union Savings Club don't forget to return the form to the school office as soon as possible. Saving is a wonderful habit to develop, so whether you're saving for a Christmas present, a school tour or a special something, now is the time to start. We'd like to thank Dundrum Credit Union and Pauline and Maria in particular for the great support they give the school. Míle buíochas!

JERSEY DAY



On **Friday 20th** we'll have our annual Jersey Day. All pupils who donate €2 to this very worthy cause can wear their sporting jerseys – preferably county or Irish – on the day. This year we are selecting a number of charities which will benefit from our charity fundraisers. More of that later!

ST. ATTRACTA'S STUDENT COUNCIL

St. Attracta's Senior School will continue with our student council into the future. 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!



STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Election day in St. Attracta's:
Friday 20th September 2013

SCHOOL SPORTS DAY – FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

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



BOYS' & GIRLS' GAELIC FOOTBALL UPDATE



The interest in GAA this year is fantastic! Some of the children are more experienced than others, having played with St. John's but there are plenty of newcomers too. Why not join the local club and be a part of the whole GAA experience! The children are really enthusiastic and yesterday the boys won their first match! Well done! The girls have their first outing this afternoon so we wish them the best of luck! We're looking forward to more matches in the coming weeks, so keep improving boys and girls! Thanks for your commitment!

~ Shane Maguire, Barry Fitzgerald, Marie Dolan, Sheila Coleman

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. Last week in one class 12 children arrived at least three minutes after the beeps went! 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 bags 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. The 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.



