

St. Attracta's Senior School, Meadowbrook, Dublin 16
Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht, Cluain Ghlaise Áth Cliath 16
Nuachtlitir na Nollag 2014 December Newsletter 2014



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE ~ MONDAY 15th DECEMBER 2014

Capture the true meaning of Christmas at our Christmas Carol Service, which will take place in the Oratory **on Monday 15th December**. As the whole school will be involved, places will be limited on the night. As usual, we'll have an afternoon performance at **1.15p.m.** to facilitate younger members of the family, children in the junior school and the extended family of grannies, granddads, relations and friends. For health & safety reasons, we can only accommodate 300 or so adults at each performance. So come along to one of our performances on



Monday 15th at 1.15p.m. in the Oratory

(mainly for younger family members, junior school children and other family members, grandparents, relations and friends)

or on Monday 15th at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory

(limited number of places – please keep the aisles of the oratory free to allow pupils to go up and down to their places)

As the Carol Service will take place in the Oratory, there will be **no food or drink**. We look forward to a full attendance of pupils in school uniform as we all share the true meaning of Christmas at the Carol Service. It really is a very special night in our school year, so **please be in the oratory early to be sure of a seat**.

Over the past few years we have had problems when children didn't turn up on the night, leaving a depleted choir to sing their class carol. If your child can't come on the evening, please let the class teacher know in writing in advance. However, our Carol Service is a whole school preparation for Christmas and we would love to see all the children gathering together on this one night of the year.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Our Advent wreath is lit in school every morning. The **circle of evergreen leaves** stands for God's everlasting love which is without beginning and without end. The **four candles** - one for each week of Advent - symbolise our waiting to welcome Jesus Christ. The three purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. The **rose coloured candle** stands for the joy of living in God's way of love. The white candle stands for Jesus' birthday on December 25th. The **red ribbon** stands for Jesus' blood shed on the cross for love of us. In order to fully celebrate the birth of Jesus, we will send home the Christmas schedule of Masses and Services for 2014 in St. Attracta's Oratory.

We also look forward to this year's Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy at 6.30p.m. in the Oratory on Tuesday 24th December. The Sunday Choir will help make our Christmas Eve Mass a memorable one and we look forward to seeing you there. At this time of year, we thank all the boys and girls who read, sing or serve Mass for their commitment to the Sunday Masses.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Would you like to participate to our Christmas Raffle? Tickets are 50c each or 3 for €1.00. The top prize is tickets to the Xtra Factor Live Tour. But we also have lots of other prizes including 10 selection boxes! Prizes would be most welcome in the office anytime. Closing date is Thursday 18th December and the draw will take place that day.

CHARITY CHAIN

A little birdie told me that St. Attracta's pupils are the kindest pupils on the planet! As part of our Kindness Counts programme, we will support many charities this year. There are so many worthy charities but we try to concentrate on charities which help children and we'll make every effort to ensure that the money we collect goes directly towards helping the children for whom the collection is intended.



Already this year we have supported Medecines Sans Frontieres and the Sisters of Charity. With Christmas looming, we will be having a No Uniform Day in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul and we'll also have our hamper appeal – see below.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year is a tough year for everybody, but we are still better off than many others. The St. Vincent de Paul Society has once again appealed to us to help families less well off than ourselves. They look after the needs of people at Christmas time. What we'd like to do in the Senior School is to help make Christmas special by showing a little kindness to others. Each class is invited to put together a hamper of items that would make Christmas really feel like Christmas for everybody. Examples of these would be long-lasting food items (pasta, rice, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, soup, sugar, etc.) selection boxes, minerals, packets of nice biscuits, mince pies, cheese & crackers, bars of chocolate, hair shampoo, etc. Some of these items could be added to your shopping trolley over the next week or so and the hampers will be collected on Thursday 18th. We'll also have a **fundraiser** on Wednesday 17th. We'll have a Christmas-themed No Uniform day for St. Vincent de Paul! Children will pay €2 to wear their own clothes! Just have a bit of fun, but don't forget, as much red and green and tinsel as you can manage!



APPEAL FOR CAR PARK SAFETY & A DOG FREE SCHOOL!

Once again, we appeal to parents to be careful when dropping children to school and collecting them again. Also please drive safely through the car park at all times... if a child is hurt by careless driving it will already be too late. And the yellow box outside the school gates means KEEP CLEAR – NO PARKING! This is an emergency exit!



As a school actively involved in the green schools programme, we are delighted that so many of our students and parents walk to and from school every day. We recognise that walking also provides an opportunity to exercise those most important members of your families - your pet dogs. However, we ask you to be conscious of the fact that some parents and children are genuinely nervous of dogs. Therefore we would ask that you please keep dogs away from school while children are present. Please do not leave your dog to roam freely or allow your dog to enter the school building under any circumstances. Lastly we remind all dog owners that they are obliged to clean up after their dogs. With thanks for your continued support.

WRAP UP WARM!

Please make sure your children are wrapped up well coming to school. Summer is over and some pupils are still going out to the yard in shirts only! Coats, hats and scarves please!



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION APPEAL & STANDING ORDERS

Following a number of enquiries I wish to clarify the following matter: If you are a parent/guardian who signed up to a Standing Order for the year 2014 (circa November/December of 2013) that order ends in December 2014 as you pledged the money for the financial year 2014. The Standing Order does not 'roll over' for subsequent years as you directed your bank to make the last payment on a particular date in December 2014. A very small number of parents **with just one child** signed up to a two year Standing Order. If you are unsure what you signed up to please ring Anne, the school secretary and she will look at a copy of the Standing Order which we have retained on record.

The Boards of Management of the Junior & Senior Schools wish to thank all those who have contributed to the Voluntary Contribution so far. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

We had a great response to our Parent-Teacher meetings last month with almost 100% attendance. If you haven't already met your child's teacher, please contact the school immediately to make an appointment ... 01-2951627

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

On Christmas Day, why not give baby Jesus a little gift – the gift of your time. You and your family might like to drop into the oratory for a little while in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. St. Attracta's Oratory will be open from 3.00 – 6.00p.m. on Jesus' birthday.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, SCHOOL CLOSURES

The school will close for the Christmas holidays at **12 noon on Friday 19th December** and will re-open on **Monday 5th January at 8.50a.m.**

The 6th January is the Feast of the Epiphany (Little Christmas or Lá Nollaig na mBan) and therefore the whole



school will go to Mass at 10.00a.m. with the parish community.

NOLLAIG SHONA AGUS ATHBHLIAIN FAOI MHAISE DAOIBH GO LÉIR!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND EVERY BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

TO ALL PUPILS, PARENTS & FRIENDS OF ST. ATTRACTA'S SENIOR SCHOOL.



