

St. Attracta's Senior School

MEADOWBROOK - DUBLIN 16



Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht

CLUAIN GHLAISE - ÁTH CLIATH 16



NEWSLETTER #1 Sept/Oct 2021

— WELCOME — BACK TO SCHOOL

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. We hope all our children will be very happy here in St. Attracta's Senior School over the coming year.

This newsletter is our way of keeping you up to date with all our news about what's happening in the Senior School. It's also an introduction to the school for new parents and a few reminders for others about new school routines, which we hope will help the school run smoothly in the year ahead.

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 the principal - Shane Maguire. Or if it's about a class issue, please email your child's class teacher or arrange an appointment with him/her so that the teacher can give you time to address your concerns.

Suzanne Barrett, our secretary will also help you with any admin-related queries, so don't hesitate to ask.

Céad míle fáilte to our new class teachers - Ms. Leonard and Mr. Walsh - we hope they will all be very happy here in St. Attracta's Senior School. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you - the parents - for your continued support and co-operation as we settle back to school and we look forward to a memorable year ahead!

Go raibh míle maith agaibh agus gach rath ar an obair!
Shane Maguire, Príomhoide

EMERGENCY WORKS

It was a very busy summer with emergency works to upgrade our emergency lighting and fire alarm systems taking place. This critical work will ensure that our school environment is a safer place for everyone - staff and students alike.

OPENINGS & CLOSINGS

St. Attracta's Senior School opens to receive all students at 8:50am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will end each day at 2:30pm. Parents/guardians who are collecting their children should be at the school no later than 2.30pm as we cannot accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time. Pupils are not allowed to re-enter school for forgotten items.



PARENTS OF NEW PUPILS

We hope your children are settling in well, whether they have come from the Junior School or from far afield.

STUDENT COUNCIL



ST. ATTRACTA'S STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This year's Student Council Elections took place on Friday, 08th October

The elections are carried out in the same way as local or national elections and in this way, the children are taught about the democratic process. 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!

2021

	Rep	Sub
Mr. Coughlan's 3 rd	Davey Byrne	Liam Greaney
Ms. Neville's 3 rd	Alex Ryan	Rhys Byrne
Ms. Reinhardt's 3 rd	Dylan Geraghty	Layla Reddell
Ms. McGuinness' 4 th	Naomi Cullen	Ollie Brennan
Ms. Carey's 4 th	Layla Kay Long	James Lee Kin
Ms. Grealis' 4 th	Dara Farrelly	Luke Shorten O'Reilly
Mr. Walsh's 4 th	Barra O Baoill	Oisín Coleman

2022

	Rep	Sub
Ms. Clifford's 5 th	Laura Ryan	Adam Slawey
Mr. Kirwan's 5 th	Mabel Mitchell	Luke O'Neill
Mr. Fitzgerald 5 th	Hannah Daly	Ann Toland
Mr. Bradley's 6 th	Lloyd Smith	Morgan Wojcik
Mr. Kenny's 6 th	Soren Doyle	Finn Furlong
Ms. Murphy's 6 th	Aoibhinn Harney	Ricky Ladera Castellero
Ms. Leonard's 6 th	Liam Jennings	Bodi Carty

SPHE & WELLBEING FRAMEWORK

Each month, as part of our School Self-evaluation initiatives, we aim to promote one particular area of pupil wellbeing in our school. The theme for the month of October is 'Resilience, Never Giving Up and Work Ethic'. All classes discuss the wellbeing theme of the month and the strategies that the children can use to promote their own wellbeing. The wellbeing themes are supported by excellent pupil-made presentations each month which are available on the Wellbeing page of our school website.

SEASON OF SACRAMENTS

Over the last number of weeks, we have celebrated ten Confirmation ceremonies; four from the class of 2020 and six from the class of 2021. All ceremonies took place in St. John the Evangelist Church, Ballinteer.

There was a fantastic turnout from our former students and each ceremony was very special. Many thanks to Annette Farrell, Fr. Liam Belton and the parish volunteer team for all their hard work in preparing the ceremonies. Congratulations also to our 3rd Class children who received their First Holy Communion in late September and early October.



CAPITAL CREDIT UNION SCHOOL SAVING SCHEME

The purpose of the School Saving Scheme is to encourage savings by Capital Credit Union's juvenile members who attend primary school. Upon joining, members of the School Saving Scheme will be given a Savers Reward Card. Each time the owner of the Savers Reward Card lodges money into their account, a reward sticker will be placed on the card. To participate in the School Saving Scheme, participants must use a Savers Reward Card which can be collected in any Capital Credit Union branch (depending on stock being available). To use the Savers Reward Card, you must first be a member of Capital Credit Union and be enrolled in a primary school. The Savers Reward Card may only be used by the Capital Credit Union member or their parent or guardian.

ACTIVE AFTERNOONS

We recently had two Active Afternoons in the school where all students got an opportunity to engage in a number of different sports with different teachers.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR PUPILS



The Parents' Association facilitates the Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for Pupils. All payments have been processed this year via Aladdin Connect and we'd like to thank Michele O'Riordan and the Parents Association as well as Suzanne for looking after the administration of the scheme - it's a great deal for parents!

PLEASE NOTE

- Each child must bring a personal hand towel in a zip-lock bag for use whilst visiting the bathroom and a small container of hand sanitizer (non-spray) to school each day.
- The school mobile number is 085 872 6262 - please be aware that if your child is unwell, we may call you from this number.

ROLL CALL, TIMEKEEPING & PUNCTUALITY

The Department of Education has directed 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 roll call time will be marked absent. So, 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 all work together to start school on time, to learn more and to make life less stressful for our pupils!

CHANGES TO CONTACT TRACING AND TESTING

From Monday September 27th children who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and may have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in schools, childcare facilities, sports, and social settings, will not have to restrict their movements or get a COVID-19 test.

However, children in a household where there is a positive case of COVID-19 will need to continue restricting their movements and follow the advice they got from the HSE. This will have explained whether they need to restrict their movements for 14 days or 17 days if there is ongoing household exposure. They will also need to have their COVID-19 tests.

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.), a note must be written in your child's homework journal or alternatively send an email to the class teacher.

Your child must be signed out from the office on collection.

REMINDER - all absences must be recorded on Aladdin.

SOLAR PANELS

Over the last few weeks, we have installed 24 solar panels on the roof of the school halla.



This will help reduce electricity costs in the long term and we hope that the new system will supply approximately 8-10% of our electricity needs. This investment highlights our commitment to becoming a greener school and it complements the work currently being undertaken by our Green Schools Committee to secure our 7TH GREEN FLAG on Global Citizenship-Energy.

WALK OR CYCLE TO SCHOOL

As a Green School, we encourage all families to walk to school or to park and stride as often as possible. It is wonderful to see so many children cycling to school and we remind children to always wear a helmet. Bicycles should be locked in school at all times and we have recently installed even more bike stands around the school grounds. We can accept no responsibility for the security of bicycles on school grounds.

Children (or adults) should **never** cycle through the yard as this has led to accidents in the past. All cyclists should dismount and walk the bike through the school grounds.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

The Parents Association are organising a fundraising event whereby each child gets the opportunity to design their own Christmas card. Dates are as follows:

- The School will then receive individual templates for the children so they can commence artwork.
- Children commence artwork by week ending 8th October (the more colour the better!)
- Children complete artwork by 20th October (pre mid-term break) and return to printing company.
- After mid-term the school will receive artwork from the printers, with details on how to order cards online.
- All payments to be made online (no cash) and children to receive their individualised cards by end of November.



Design-A-Card

Make Fundraising Fun

SAFETY IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

In the interests of the safety of all our children, we appeal to all adults to drive slowly and to park carefully in the permitted spaces in the public carparks; please do not obstruct gates, park on double yellow lines, on the zig-zag lines at the pedestrian crossings, in wheelchair spaces, in the Staff Car Park, or in the Bus Parking area directly outside the swimming pool.

Please give good example to the children by not gathering in groups congesting the entrance and exits to the school and by using the pedestrian crossings to access the school.

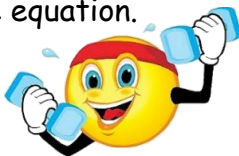
At this stage, children should be able to walk the short distance from the entrance gates to their specific class zone outside their classrooms and we ask that parents continue to wait outside the school grounds when collecting their children.

Finally, remind all pupils to cross with the lollipop lady! If a child is hurt by careless driving it will already be too late. Thank you!



Healthy Habits

- We ask all children to follow our Healthy Eating Policy which encourages a healthy active lifestyle both now and in the future.
- This simply means that we continue the same policy as the Junior School - no treats.
- Keep lunchboxes healthy and drink plenty of water, but not during class teaching time.
- All wrappers and leftover apple cores, etc. should be brought home and disposed of at home.
- Eating is only half of the equation. We also encourage the children to keep fit and active at all times. A healthy body and a healthy mind...



School Expenses Welcome Anytime!

Thank you to those who have paid the School Expenses of €85.00 which covers art & craft, photocopying, sports, computer and curriculum resources.

There has been a great response from parents availing of the Aladdin Connect Payment facility. This money goes directly towards buying materials for children in the classroom and is a huge help in resourcing the many areas of the curriculum which the Department of Education and Skills does not fund. Without it we would not be able to provide for the children in the way that we do.

As this is an expensive time of the year, these school expenses can be paid anytime but if possible before Friday 15th October.

Parents are invited to contact the principal, Mr. Maguire or Ms. Neville in confidence, if you have any difficulty in this area. Never hesitate to talk to us - we may be able to help!

OUR FANTASTIC CHILDREN

The children have settled back really well into school and overall there has been very positive reports about behaviour and work ethic in all classrooms. We are very proud of them all. Ar aghaidh le chéile!



YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE, BUT IF YOU LIVE RIGHT, ONCE IS ENOUGH!