



St. Attracta's Senior School

MEADOWBROOK - DUBLIN 16

Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht

CLUAIN GHLAISE - ÁTH CLIATH 16

Newsletter – Nuachtlitir

January/February – Eanáir/Feabhra 2022

DEAR PARENTS/GUARDIANS,

These first few months of 2022 have brought many challenges in terms of dealing with an increased prevalence of Covid-19 in our school community. We understand how challenging these months have been for the families of our children and staff, particularly those who have had to restrict movements during this period.

A return to competitive sporting action after a two-year hiatus through the Cuman na mBunscol competitions and the resumption of class assemblies with the children are small but significant steps forward for our school.

Thankfully rates of infection have appeared to slow down in recent weeks and we look forward to the prospect of brighter (and warmer) days ahead as we embrace the joys of Spring.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Shane Maguire, Príomhoide

RETIREMENT

It is with the greatest sadness for us that we let you know that Ms. Neville has announced that she will retire at Easter after almost 40 years of service to St. Attracta's Senior School. However, we are thrilled for her that she is about to begin a whole new adventure.

We thank Ms. Neville for her outstanding dedication and commitment to the children of St. Attracta's. We owe her a great debt of gratitude in so many ways and we wish her every happiness and fulfilment on her retirement.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

In the last week of January, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week with the theme 'Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full'.

It's a week when we celebrate the joy of working in a Catholic school, whether as pupils or teachers. On the Wednesday, we celebrated our Grandparents and at assemblies with 3rd and 4th classes we reflected on the important role they play in our lives.



MID-TERM BREAK

St. Attracta's Senior and Junior Schools will be closed on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th February for our mid-term break. **Bainigí taitneamh as an mbriseadh meán-téarma.**

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our school website www.sasns.ie has undergone a platform restructuring in recent weeks. We apologise for any difficulties in accessing the website recently. It now operates off the WordPress system and is now more compatible with smartphone devices.



RETURN TO SPORT

Interschool primary Gaelic football action returned earlier this month for the first time since November 2019 with Cumann na mBunscol.

We have a Senior Boys and Senior Girls Gaelic football team currently competing in two competitions.

Our Senior Girls and Boys soccer teams have also commenced training in recent weeks.

It is truly a joy to have our students represent our school again in the blue and navy of Saint Attracta's.

We thank all the teachers for their commitment in coaching the teams and we wish all our sporting panels the very best in their respective competitions.

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation Enrolment Ceremonies took place on Tuesday February 8th in the Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Ballinteer. We have a total of 83 children due to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in May.

The Confirmation ceremonies will take place on the following dates and times:

Ms. Murphy's Class Thursday 19th May 5pm
Mr. Kenny's Class Thursday 19th May 7pm
Mr. Bradley's Class Friday 20th May 5pm
Ms. Leonard's Class Friday 20th May 7pm



THE BUZZY BEE

Our 6th Class Editors are finalising the latest edition of The Buzzy Bee. It will be published on our school website directly after Mid-Term.

RAINBOWS

As part of the pastoral care programme, we, in St Attracta's Senior School are very pleased to be able to provide support for pupils who may have experienced a family change following parental separation, through the introduction of the Rainbows programmes. Each parent has now received an email explaining this programme with an option to send back an Expression of Interest form if they were interested in enrolling their child. We are now in the process of putting together a group who will participate in this programme (March-June 2022).

While Rainbows is not counselling or professional therapy, it can provide a safe space of meaningful listening support for young people at a difficult time in their lives. Meeting others of a similar age and in a similar situation can be very supportive and helpful for young people.

Sue McDonagh - Rainbows Co-ordinator Email: sasnsrainbows@gmail.com Phone: 087 4057433



GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH!

In the build up to Christmas, the students of St. Attracta's S.N.S decided to collect coins and loose change as a fundraiser for the FR. PETER MCVERRY TRUST. This charity helps homeless people and those struggling to find accommodation all over Ireland. After much collecting and counting, the boys and girls raised an astonishing €1260.00 which was sent to the Fr. Peter McVerry Trust.



Have a look at the 6th class Green School's Committee presenting the cheque to Donal Brady of the Fr. Peter McVerry Trust.

WALK ON WEDNESDAY

Our Walk on Wednesday initiative is taking place every Wednesday with all classes competing for the coveted golden boot award. As a Green School we encourage all families to walk, cycle or park and stride to school as often as possible. Well done to all the classes who have won the golden boot and to all the children for getting involved in such great numbers.

Peter Kenny - Green Schools Co-ordinator



APPLICATIONS for 2022/2023

The closing date for receipt of completed applications for places in the Senior School for the academic year 2022/2023 was at 2.30pm on Friday 11th February 2022.

Please view our Annual Admissions Notice in conjunction with our Admission Policy, both of which are published on our website for further information.

Decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the Board of Management, in accordance with the school's Admission Policy.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

A sincere THANK YOU to all of you who have contributed in any way to our Voluntary Contribution Appeal. Every little (and large) helps! and the Board of Management really appreciates your generosity.

TEN TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR CHILD'S STRESS & ANXIETY

1. Encourage your child to face his/her fears, not run away from them.
2. Tell your child that it is okay to be imperfect!
3. Focus on the positives. Don't dwell on the negatives.
4. Schedule relaxing activities.
5. Encourage good sleep habits.
6. Reduce screen time.
7. Encourage your child to express his/her anxiety.
8. Help your child to problem solve. Don't do it for them!
9. Stay calm.
10. Practice relaxation exercises with your child.
11. NEVER GIVE UP!



ONE MILLION TREES INITIATIVE

Only recently, St. Attracta's got involved in a fantastic initiative called the One Million Trees project. This project initiated by Self Help Africa, aims to plant over one million trees in Africa and Ireland to help combat climate change. Our school received 14 trees, one for each class. In turn, Self Help Africa will plant 140 trees in rural Africa for St. Attracta's SNS to help fight against the worse effects of climate change. Our 14 trees were sown along the wall at the Broadford Road by our Green School's Pupil Committee with the help of our caretaker Mr. McCann. Hopefully they will grow and mature over the coming years and add to the wonderful ecosystem we already have in our school grounds.



KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

Just as we teach children about road safety, fire safety, Hallowe'en safety etc., we also have a duty to keep our children safe online. In school, we assure you that the children do not have unsupervised access to the internet during the school day.

To mark Internet Safety Day, Ms. Neville arranged talks as follows:

- 8th, 9th & 10th February - Internet Safety Talks for all our Pupils
- Thursday 10th February - Online Internet Safety Talk for Parents at 7.30pm

The aim of Cybersafe Ireland and of St. Attracta's SNS is that we want children to take advantage of all that the digital world has to offer in terms of education and enjoyment, but without putting themselves or others at risk.

See www.cybersafeireland.org

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

- HEPA Filters have been purchased for every mainstream class in the school as well as two learning support rooms.
- An Audio-Visual Sound System was installed in the school halla in January. This will be an invaluable resource for the students of the school and has already catered for student presentations, PE lessons, class standard assemblies and staff meetings.

TRÓCAIRE BOXES

All children will soon be given this year's Trócaire boxes. Many parents and teachers remember filling those Trócaire boxes when they were at school themselves. The purpose of these boxes is to give some of our loose coins to charity instead of to ourselves.

Remember that boxes must be returned to school before the Easter Holidays.

Check out Trócaire's website to learn more: www.trocaire.com



WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL DURING LENT?

Starting Wednesday 9th March and every Wednesday thereafter until Easter from 8:20 - 8:50, why not join Ms. Neville, Ms. Clifford and Mr. Maguire for a few moments of quiet reflection, prayer and music? This Lent the students will lead some lovely prayers, reflections and music aimed at young people - but all are welcome too, so why not row a little closer to Jesus by spending some time with him. Make it part of your Lenten resolution - looking forward to seeing you there!