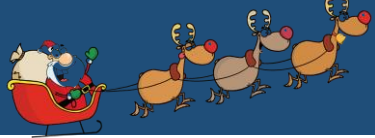




St. Attracta's Senior School

MEADOWBROOK - DUBLIN 16



Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht

CLUAIN GHLAISE - ÁTH CLIATH 16

NEWSLETTER

November / December 2023

Christmas Message

On behalf of all of us in the Senior School, we wish all our children and their families a peaceful, happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year. School will close for Christmas holidays at 12 noon Friday 22nd December and will re-open on Monday 8th January at 8.50am.

Beannachtaí na Nollag agus gach dea-ghuí don Athbhliain!

Shane Maguire, Príomhoide

Green Schools Committee for 2023/24



The pupils in each class have decided on our Green School's Committee for 2023/24. The Green School's Committee gives a voice to children in our school about all things green. Any child who expressed an interest in this area was invited to put their names forward. One student from each class was then democratically elected by their peers. This is a fantastic achievement for each child and one they should be proud of. Congratulations to our newly elected members. We hope they will serve their school well and we look forward to working with them.

Múinteoir	Rang	Student Rep
Ms. Ryan	3	Lois Julian
Ms. Grealis	3	Grace Lee
Mr. Fitzgerald	3	Leo Greene
Mr. Bradley	4	Ollie Jennings
Mr. Coughlan	4	Aisling O'Regan
Ms. Quigley	4	Isla Whelan
Ms. O'Gorman	4	Ava Cahill
Ms. Bhreathnach	5	Luca Gubellini
Mr. Danza	5	Laura McGarrigle
Ms. Sweeney/ Ms. McGuinness	5	Evan Harte
Ms. Leonard	6	Ella Wall
Ms. McCann	6	Jamie Keenan
Mr. Butler	6	Elliot Gallagher
Ms. McDonagh/ Ms. McEvoy	6	Reuben Harnett

Active Schools Committee

Our new Active School Committees for 2023/2024 have been appointed. All our classes are being as active as possible and they are having regular movement breaks in class. They are given Active Homework once a week. We are encouraging them to walk, cycle or park and stride to school if possible. This committee met recently and helped to coordinate the GOAL Mile that took place on Wednesday December 20th. The 5th and 6th class representatives also represented the school at the official opening of the new Teen Space in Meadowbrook on Tuesday December 12th.

Rang	Student Rep
3	Sophia Carolan, Oisín Kelleher, Maria Sa
4	Aisling Brady, Teddy Faulkner, Frankie Downes, Brody Whelan
5	Ciara Coleman, Aisling O'Brien, Robert Lewandowski
6	Hazel O'Meara, C.J. Szafranski, Eoin O'Boyle, Conor Kenny

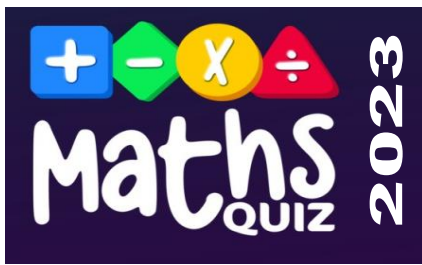
STAFF COMMITTEE

Ms. McDonagh, Mr. Fitzgerald, Ms. O'Gorman, Ms. Breathnach, Ms. Watkins and Ms. McCormack

Also, it is great to see so many pupils using a variety of sustainable forms of transport to get to school each day.

Keep up the walking, cycling and scooting to school and don't forget to make yourselves as visible as possible for other road users during the winter months.





On Tuesday 28th November, we had our annual Inter-Schools Maths Quiz for sixth class pupils in St. Attracta's SNS. This was a wonderful occasion in which the children had an opportunity to showcase their numeracy talent and test their mathematical skills competitively at an inter-schools level.

We had children from 17 other schools around the South Dublin region all vying for the coveted Maths Quiz trophy.

After six challenging rounds, we had a close finish. In the end only two points separated the first three teams. St. Colmcille's SNS and Divine Word NS took 3rd place with an excellent total of 33 points. St. Olaf's Primary School came in 2nd place with a fabulous 34 points, while Oatlands Primary School took 1st with a stunning final total of 35 points. This meant they won back the Maths Quiz trophy that they last won back in 2019.

The St. Attracta's SNS team consisted of *Oisín Coleman, Fiona Zhong, Elliot Gallagher, James Feely, Barra O'Baoill, Oisín Miller Farrell, Ben Madigan* and *Shriya Bharath*. These boys and girls represented our school so brilliantly on the day and they should be very proud of themselves.

We would like to congratulate the Oatlands team on their wonderful achievement but also extend a huge congratulations to all the boys and girls who took part. It is such an honour for all of them to represent their school at such an elite level and we hope they enjoyed the day.



The Oatlands Team - Winners



St. Olaf's Team - 2nd Place



St. Attracta's SNS Team



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying Week took place from November 13th to 17th.

We hear lots in the media about bullying in schools, with the focus often on cyberbullying and the mean, nasty things people post on messages and phones. This week tied in well with our wellbeing theme for November; Kindness and Anti-Bullying. All classes had the opportunity to watch various videos that dealt with the theme of anti-bullying but also highlighted strategies to deal with bullying if our children see it taking place. We are also proud to have our Cineáltas flag in the school encouraging our pupils to be kind and to look out for one another.

To finish Anti-Bullying Week, we also had an ODD SOCKS DAY on Friday 17th November highlighting how we should be accepting of one another and how we are all unique.

JOLLY JUMPERS DAY

On Friday 15th December, we had our Jolly Jumpers Day in St. Attracta's SNS where the children were allowed wear their Christmas jumpers in aid of St. Vincent de Paul. This day brought fantastic festive cheer to the school and we managed to raise a brilliant €930.00 for St. Vincent de Paul.

We would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the local St. Vincent de Paul to thank you all most sincerely for your huge generosity to our hampers Christmas appeal. There was a huge response in the Senior School and it is great to see these items going to people in need.

This all ties in beautifully with our December Wellbeing Theme of **Giving and Gifting**. We have asked the children to stop and appreciate all that we have instead of looking for more.



GOAL MILE

On Wednesday, 20th December all pupils ran/walked the GOAL Mile around the DLR pitches in Meadowbrook Park. This was a fun activity to raise awareness for GOAL and the importance of exercise and healthy living.



Olympic Handball

Olympic Handball training is taking place at lunch times for U11 boys and girls and U13 boys and girls. We have our first tournament of the year coming up on Tuesday 23rd January. *We wish all our teams the very best of luck and a huge thanks to all the teachers who give so generously of their time to coach the children at lunchtime.*

Parent Teacher Meetings

Our Parent Teacher Meetings took place during the third week in November (November 20th - 23rd) via a phone call home or an in-person meeting. We had almost 100% response from parents/ guardians for the meetings.

Please know that if you have concerns about any aspect of your child's time in school, you're always welcome to arrange an appointment to talk to us. The teacher who actually teaches your child is always the first port of call.

Parking outside School

In the interests of the safety of all our children, we appeal to all adults who are driving their children to school to drive slowly and to park carefully in the permitted spaces in the public car parks; **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.**

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/guardians continue to wait outside the school grounds when collecting their children.

Finally, remind all pupils to cross with the Lollipop Lady! Thank you!

ALL-IRELAND CLUB WINNER

Congratulations to our 4th Class teacher, Ms. Aobha O'Gorman, on last Sunday's **Senior All-Ireland Club Camogie** success with her club Dicksboro in Kilkenny. Ms. O' Gorman played a starring role in Croke Park in a thrilling final against Sarsfields from Galway. *She is an outstanding role model for our students and the staff and children are extremely proud of her fantastic achievement.*



CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to extend a huge congratulations to our past pupil Elizabeth Ndudi who created history winning a gold medal for Ireland at the U-20 European Championships Long Jump event earlier this year. This was a phenomenal achievement for the 18-year-old. Elizabeth was also recently nominated for the RTE Young Sports person of the Year award. *We wish her continued success in her athletics career.*

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Many thanks to our Parents Association for providing prizes to give away to children in each class for the Whole School Christmas Bingo. The Christmas Bingo has been hugely popular with the children and it is greatly appreciated by everyone.

Huge thanks also to Ms. McDonagh for organising.

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

Our Advent wreath is lit in school every morning. But what is it all about?

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 25th December. To help us mark this season, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Kenny and Ms. Clifford held an Advent Prayer Service every Wednesday before school for the month of December. These took place in St. Attracta's Oratory and it was great to see so many of our children, parents and grandparents join us for some Christmas reflections and prayers where we prayed for peace and hope in our world.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



On Tuesday 19th December, we had our annual Christmas Carol Service in St. Attracta's Oratory. This was a fantastic occasion where the children retold the story of Christmas through prayer and poem, story and song. *A huge well done to all the children who contributed so brilliantly on the night.*

Also, many thanks to all who contributed to the collection for the UNICEF Gaza Emergency Fund – a fantastic total of €1,855.00 was raised.

OUR CHRISTMAS ART GALLERY

