



NEWSLETTER

November / December '24 / January '25



MATHS MASTERS QUIZ



St Attracta's SNS annual Maths Masters Quiz was held in the school hall on the 27th November. This year, nineteen neighbouring schools took part, along with our own team from 6th class.

It was a close competition right up to the last round, with nine teams within 2 points of each other going into the final stretch. Indeed, our own maths wizards were joint leaders from the 2nd to the 5th round – a great performance.



In the end it was St Patrick's Girls National School who won the cup, scoring an impressive 32 out of a possible 36 points. They finished ½ a point ahead of St Olaf's NS and Oatlands Primary School who were joint second.

St Attracta's finished joint 4th and well done to Laura McGarrigle, Jack Zhang, Katie Darcy and Evan Daly on a super performance! Honourable mention must also go to our team of subs, Darragh Enright, Ellen Worthington, Isabelle Keating and Darragh Minnock who took part in each round without being an official part of the quiz.

Finally, a huge thanks to all members of staff for helping to organise our quiz and to our Students' Council members who gave vital assistance on the day.



On Wednesday 18th December, we had our JOLLY JUMPERS DAY in St. Attracta's SNS where the children were allowed wear their Christmas jumpers in aid of Laura Lynn Children's Hospice. This day brought fantastic festive cheer to the school and we managed to raise a brilliant **€500.00** for Laura Lynn.



On Wednesday 18th 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 **€1,035.00** was raised.*



Society of 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 **CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 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.

CAROL SINGING IN SIMPSONS HOSPITAL

The choir visited Simpsons Hospital to sing for the residents. It is lovely to give back to the community and get in the Christmas spirit by spreading joy through song. We took a mixture of 3rd and 6th class and they were a credit to the school. We are immensely proud of them. It was also lovely to see the family members of our pupils enjoying the show and we hope to continue this tradition in the years to come.





Since starting playing basketball last year, the sport has gone from strength to strength in St. Attracta's. It has been an exciting opportunity to introduce our young students to the joys of basketball while emphasising the importance of teamwork, playing and enjoyment.

This year, with the wonderful help of a 6th class parent Ricardo Ladera Castellero, we have started coaching basketball to the 5th and 6th classes, and have entered the Dublin Miniball League.

We played friendly matches against local schools and, after playing our league matches, both our boys' and girls' teams qualified for the finals in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght, a wonderfully exciting event, filled with energy and enthusiasm.

On November 28th, players from many schools gathered to showcase their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The court was alive with the sounds of bouncing balls, encouraging cheers from supporters, and the quick pace of the game.

Our teams competed in friendly but fierce matches, displaying impressive dribbling, passing, and shooting techniques. Our 6th class children and parents cheered from the sidelines as our boys put up a great fight against St. Colmcille's S.N.S and our girls romped home to victory with a sensational win against Lusk S.N.S.

A massive congratulations to both teams for getting to the final and a special congratulations to the girl's team for doing so well on the day. The event emphasised fun and the joy of playing sports, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved.

GREEN SCHOOLS POSTER WINNER

Huge congrats to 6th Class student, **Aisling O' Brien** on being selected as a regional winner of the **2024-2025 Green-Schools Marine Spatial Planning Poster Competition**, **"You, Me and Our Future Seas"!**

"Her creativity and attention to detail truly captured the spirit of the theme," according to the judges of the competition.

As part of the prize, Aisling will get her poster professionally framed, a Certificate of Achievement and a €100 One4All voucher. She along with her parents will attend the Awards Ceremony in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire on the 5th February 2025 where her poster will be showcased and the national winner for her age category will also be announced on the day.



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, Ms. Clifford, Mr. Maguire, Ms. McCann and Mr. Danza held an Advent Prayer Service every Tuesday 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/guardians and grandparents join us for some Christmas reflections and prayers where we prayed for peace and hope in our world.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

In St. Attracta's SNS, the safety and well-being of our students are our top priorities.

To ensure a safe environment for everyone, especially those with severe nut allergies, we kindly remind all families that our school is a **NUT-FREE ZONE**.

This means:

- Please do not send any foods containing nuts, including peanut butter, Nutella, granola bars with nuts, or baked goods made with nut ingredients.
- Check food labels carefully before packing snacks/lunches.

Thank you for helping us keep all our students safe and healthy. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or need further clarification, feel free to reach out to the school office.



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 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.**

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!

Special Classroom

Work is ongoing on our special classroom, and we are hopeful that it will be up and running before too long. Included in the plans is a soft play area which will connect the classroom to the school yard. The accompanying photo shows the soft play area in its preliminary stages. Both the classroom and play area will be valuable additions to our school's overall structure and landscape.



Upcoming School Closures

Please see below details of school closures for this term.

- **Friday 14th February 2025** Full Day School Closure for Primary Maths Curriculum Training Day
- **Wednesday 26th March 2025** Half Day School Closure Bí Cineálta (New Anti-Bullying Procedures) Staff Training. Senior School closing at 12:30pm
- **Monday 26th May 2025** Full Day School Closure (Staff Training Day on Autism in relation to opening of Autism Class).

COOKERY COURSE

6th class took part in a cookery course with a company called Real Nation. It aimed at providing nutritional information and encouraging the children to cook for themselves and their family. It was a fantastic opportunity, and the children really engaged with the whole experience.



HOT SCHOOL MEALS

We hope that the provision of hot school meals is working well for your child. Just a few reminders:

- If your child will be absent from school, the deadline to cancel an order is 48 hours before delivery. Simply log into your Lunch Bag Account, go to the calendar and tap the day that you don't want a lunch - this will greatly help in reducing food waste.
- We would encourage parents/guardians to regularly change up lunch options for your child to ensure variety for your child.
- If you wish to cancel lunches completely for your child, please contact our school secretary, Suzanne via email office@sasns.ie or phone 01-2951627.

SPECIAL VISITORS By Conor Young

On Wednesday, the 15th January, two employees from DLR County Council paid Ms. Bhreathnach's 5th class a visit. They were looking for our input and ideas to help them plan and design a new playground and recreation area in our vicinity.

They started off by asking us to draw our ideas on sheets of paper. We came up with lots of ideas including a rough terrain path for bikes, football goals, a reading area and a zip-line.

Next we went on a walk down by the river Slang to identify suitable areas for the playground to be located. We also examined the trees and nature along the river.

After that we returned to the classroom where we chatted more in depth about our ideas. Next, one of the visitors rolled out a long sheet of paper, the length of our room. We combined all of our ideas by drawing them on the large sheet of paper.

This was our final draft. It was a wonderful opportunity to be part of this process and we are very excited to see this playground come to life in the near future.



OUR CHRISTMAS ARTS & CRAFTS

As well as preparing and presenting a wonderful Christmas Carol Service, our talented pupils were busy in the lead up to the holidays, producing wonderful festive art, samples of which can be seen in the accompanying photos.

Their beautiful work brought festive cheer to corridors and classrooms alike!

