



# St. Attracta's Senior School

MEADOWBROOK - DUBLIN 16

## Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht

CLUAIN GHLAISE - ÁTH CLIATH 16



### NEWSLETTER

### February/June 2025



The senior panel competed well in a tight group earning a loss, a draw and a win against Scoil Maelruáin of Ailesbury, Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna and Scoil Treasa of Firhouse respectively. This left them in joint second with Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna who they subsequently beat in a playoff, earning themselves a place in the quarter finals.

The QF draw saw us head across the Liffey to play St John Bosco SBS of the Navan Road, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. This game proved quite like our opening group game in that we were the better team with more of the scoring chances but had our lead - and any chance of advancing in the competition - erased by a late goal. Great disappointment for the team but they can hold their heads high for making it a super campaign in which they displayed sportsmanship and no lack of skill.

***A brief word of thanks to our team of dads who trained the team, set up pitches and encouraged the boys every step of the way – Mick Wren, Rich Fanning, Will Lawless and John Joyce.***

Clare Maguire and Fergus Coughlan

### CLASS ALLOCATIONS 2025/2026

Standard	2024/25	2025/26
3rd	Ms. Boyle	Ms. H. McCarthy
3rd	Ms. Denmead	Ms. Hand
3rd	Ms. Gormley	TBC
4th	Ms. Ryan	TBC
4th	Ms. Quigley	Ms. McGuinness
4th	Mr. Bradley	Ms. Ryan
4th	Ms. H. McCarthy	Ms. Sweeney
5th	Ms. Shyn	Mr. Bradley
5th	Ms. Sweeney/ Ms. McGuinness	TBC
5th	Ms. O'Gorman	TBC
5th	Ms. Quigley	TBC
6th	Ms. Nelly	Ms. McCann
6th	Ms. Bhreathnach	Ms. Miles
6th	Ms. N. McCarthy	Mr. Danza
6th	Mr. Danza	Ms. Grealis

### 3<sup>rd</sup> CLASS on



Thanks to 3rd class ANA Sulin Dunne, all 4 of our 3rd classes were learning Irish Sign Language for a 10-week period before Easter. This was to help the children communicate with Fintan Minnock who has been using ISL to communicate for the last few years. They put an extraordinary effort in twice a week, and they culminated their learning in an ISL performance of 'A Million Dreams' from the Greatest Showman. They practised tirelessly and performed for the whole school during assembly.

It was so impressive that a video of the performance was sent into News2Day. They loved the video and were eager to feature 3rd class in a News2Day report. On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of May, News2Day reporter Florence and cameraman Alan came into St. Attracta's. They interviewed 5 children from 3rd class- Beth Mc Dermott and Fintan Minnock from Ms. Quigley's, Liam Enright from Ms. McCarthy's, Jalal Eddin-Serkouh from Mr. Bradley's and Daisy McCarthy from Ms. Ryan's.

Also featured was Fintan's ANA Sulin Dunne and his brother Fintan Minnock. Everyone spoke so enthusiastically about ISL, and each child was featured in the performance of 'A Million Dreams'.



# SCHOOL TOURS 2025

This term all classes have enjoyed wonderful school tours. The 3<sup>rd</sup> classes visited Causey Farm in Meath. Great fun was had by all, especially with the bog jumping!

The 4<sup>th</sup> classes went to Fort Lucan, which is always a firm favourite with the children, especially the water slides and the go-karting.

The 5<sup>th</sup> classes got to try out the activities in the Let's Go Camp in UCD. Highlights of their trip included zorbing, inflatable obstacle courses, VR games and rock climbing races. Word on the street is that Ms McCarthy is a speedy climber.

And finally, at the end of June, the 6<sup>th</sup> classes had their turn to visit the highly anticipated Baltinglass Adventure Centre. We had fabulous weather and got to enjoy zip-lining, rock climbing, archery and kayaking. The students and teachers all enjoyed cooling off in the river while kayaking. Rumour has it Ms Miles capsized one of her students by accident!

*Great craic was had by all and it was a lovely way for the 6<sup>th</sup> class students to celebrate the end of year.*



## GOLD STEM AWARD

This year we were delighted to be awarded 'Gold' in the Research Ireland Curious Minds STEM awards.

The judges were very impressed with our submission which displayed the array of STEM activities and projects that were carried out in St. Attracta's throughout the year as well as highlighting visits to the school from people who work in the field of STEM. All classes were involved in this important project. Maith sibh, gach duine!

***A word of thanks to Ms. McEvoy for all her hard work in co-ordinating our application.***



## RETIREMENTS

### FAREWELL TO WONDERFUL COLLEAGUES

Congratulations to Sue McDonagh and Éilis McDonnell on their retirement from St Attracta's after many years of dedication and service to the school.

Sue and Éilis have been two long-serving members of staff. We won't reveal when they began working in the school but suffice to say it was some time in the last millennium!

Aside from the vital contribution they made by way of teaching hundreds of children from the Ballinteer/Meadowbrook area, they also looked after important facets of school life: Sue in organising and running countless sports events and Éilis in the setting up and running of the library and Book Week.

***Ni bheidh a leithéid ann arís. We wish them every success in their retirement and many happy years of golf!***



## 4<sup>TH</sup> CLASS GAA BLITZ

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Class pupils were delighted to be invited by Ballinteer St. Johns to take part in a fun and friendly GAA blitz held on the Broadford pitches.

On a scorching hot day, spirits were high as we entered two girls' teams and two boys' teams into the event. Each team had the opportunity to play five matches, with plenty of excitement, skill, and energy on display throughout the day.

The children also enjoyed cheering on teams from other local schools, adding to the fantastic community atmosphere. Our pupils represented the school with pride, showing excellent teamwork, sportsmanship, and kindness throughout the blitz.

***A big well done to all our 4<sup>th</sup> class pupils who took part—you made us proud!***



## BOY'S SOCCER



The Boy's Senior Soccer Team played their last match for the school back in May, narrowly losing to Rathfarnham Educate Together in the second round of the DLR Cup.

The boys were competitive and determined throughout the season, finishing second in their league group for the second year in a row.

Two teams from 6<sup>th</sup> class also represented the school in the FAI 5-a-side tournament back in March. Both teams came top in their group but were beaten in the subsequent rounds. Well done to all the boys who represented the school this year. They approached every game with a positive attitude and great fighting spirit.

The pupils who played against the St. Attracta's staff at the end of term also deserve a special mention for playing their part in a game that will be remembered for years to come!

## GIRLS SNR HANDBALL TEAM

This extremely talented group of 13 girls had a fantastic year representing the school at a high level all year, training every Friday lunchtime.

Having won the All-Ireland Final last year as a junior team, they were back again fighting their way up through the Dublin and Leinster divisions.

A fantastic day was had in Gormanstown for the Leinster Finals. The team were beaten early in the day by Yellow Furze N. S. from Meath but that made the girls all the hungrier to secure the win in the final, progressing for a second year in a row to the All-Ireland Finals!

We were back on 9<sup>th</sup> April in Gormanstown for the All-Ireland finals. The team beat St. Dominic's Grammar of Antrim in their first match with an impressive score of 7-2. Next was Lisvernane N.S of Tipperary, securing a second win, with another impressive score of 6-2. The final game before the playoffs was against Scoil Róis, Taylor's Hill of Galway, again beating them 6-3.

The team progressed to the final, meeting Scoil Róis again for what was one of the hardest battles the girls faced all year. It was unfortunately not to be for the team this year, but silver medals and a trip to Mc Donald's on the way home had everyone in great spirits.

***We are so immensely proud of the girls and all they have achieved the past two years, having been the first St. Attracta's team in the school to reach two All-Ireland Final and to win it last year. Maith sibh a chailín!***

Anna Miles

## CAMOGIE - SENIOR



The Senior Girls' Camogie team built on the success of last year to win the shield competition in Cumann na mBunscol. They competed in a tough group with our neighbors Scoil Náithí, Gaelscoil Sliabh Rua and Our Lady's Grove. Despite just one win and one narrow defeat, the girls ultimately made their way to a final against Gaelscoil Sliabh Rua on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June. The team put on a tremendous display of determination and skill to win convincingly against the home team.

For a lot of the team, it was to be their last time representing St. Attracta's and wearing the blue and navy jersey before beginning the transition to secondary school. They have set a fantastic example for the pupils that will follow and are a credit to their school and families.

***Also, a word of thanks to all the parents for supporting the girls through the campaign, between jersey washing and lifts. Their help was greatly appreciated.***

Niamh Quigley & Anna Miles

## CAMOGIE - JUNIOR

The Junior Girls Camogie team, made up of a fantastic group of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class girls, trained with great enthusiasm throughout April in preparation for a busy term of matches.

Their first outing was against Divine Word on the Broadford pitches. The team made an impressive debut, showing great determination and teamwork to secure a well-earned win. The girls faced Gaelscoil na Fuinseoirge in the second match, and the sideline was filled with supportive family members and sunglasses. The girls showed brilliant cooperation and true grit in their performance, which lead them to their second win of the Go Games league.

Next, they went to action against St. Olaf's, playing through heavy rain, yet still persevering and working harder than ever in what was a nail-biting match. Unfortunately, our winning streak came to an end with a narrow one-point loss despite their best efforts. The team's final game, once again on home ground at Broadford against Scoil San Treasa, was a true display of their hard work and commitment. The girls played outstandingly as a team and finished the season with a remarkable 11-3 to 1-1 victory.

***A huge well done to all the girls involved and a heartfelt thank you to the parents for all their support and lifts throughout the term.***

Sinéad Hand, Niamh McCarthy and Pamela Ryan



## Confirmation

Congratulations to the girls and boys of Rang 6 who made their Confirmation on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. The children received the sacrament from Bishop Donal Roche in the Church of St John the Evangelist, Ballinteer and were rewarded with a beautiful spring day to celebrate the occasion with their families.

## SLÁN LE RANG 6

We had our 'Slán le Rang 6' celebration on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of June. All the parents were invited and they enjoyed looking at the artwork and listening to poetry composed by the pupils, memories of St Attracta's and a very special interview with Ms McDonagh in honour of her retirement.

Each class performed a song and we finished the singing with a rendition of the 'Graduation Song' led by Luca Gubellini. Mr Maguire presented each child with a certificate and a memory book. He also gave a few wise words to the pupils as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

The ceremony finished with a brilliant slideshow of photos and videos of their time in St Attracta's from junior infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class, which brought tears and laughter in equal measure.

The students were treated to 99s by the Parent's Association to top off a wonderful day. We will really miss you all: come back to visit!



## PUPIL VS STAFF SOCCER MATCH

On Monday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, the 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils took on the staff in a match for the ages. In a game well controlled by referee and soccer aficionado, Seán McLoughlin, the pupils strode into a 4 - 2 lead and were on course for a decisive victory before having their thunder stolen by a late staff revival. The final score was 5 - 4. The pupils almost equalised with a late chance but it was not to be.

Noteworthy amongst the goals were a sweet opener for Evan Harte and a stunning strike from Ryan Neary; for the staff, a peach from Mr. Bradley and a late winner from student teacher Charlie Boyle.

*It now falls to next year's 6<sup>ths</sup> to break what has been a barren spell for the pupils!*



## CHILDREN MOVING SCHOOL

If there are any children from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Class transferring to another school in September 2025, please inform the school principal, Mr. Maguire, as soon as possible.

## END OF YEAR WORDS

As another school year draws to a close, I wish to thank all parents/guardians for your continued support and co-operation over the last year. It has been an extremely busy few months with school tours, Sports Day and class trips to Rathfarnham Castle and Marlay Park. The children have been excellent throughout the year and deserve huge credit for their behaviour and standard of work. We hope that you all have an enjoyable and relaxing break over the summer months.

Our School Holiday Calendar for 2025/2026 has been emailed to all parents/guardians and it is also available on the school website at [www.sasns.ie](http://www.sasns.ie)

Shane Maguire, Príomhoide