



WHAT'S UP @ ATTRACTA'S



What's Up at St. Attracta's NS

February 2024

Being Active is Fun!

Being active is fun because it makes us feel good, helps us make friends, and lets us learn new things. When we move around and remain active, it makes us feel great. In St. Attracta's NS there are so many activities to try, like sports, dancing, or just playing games. So, moving around is not just good for our health; it's a great way to have fun and enjoy our time in school!



Fitness Ireland - Gymnastics

Damien, an external teacher from Fitness Ireland, has been visiting our school for the past few weeks. He started teaching gymnastics to the older classes first. He is now teaching the younger classes gymnastics. It is great fun and it is a great way to build flexibility and strength throughout our bodies. *Go raibh maith agat Damien!*



11 B4 11

Over the last number of weeks Ms. Sloyan and Ms. McCann have been teaching the junior and senior classes how to be active by doing an activity called 11 B4 11 which is, 11 minutes of exercises before 11 o'clock. The Active Flag Committee have also been participating in helping the junior and senior classes be more active both in school and at home.



Active Playground Leaders

This year, the playground leaders program has been a huge hit! Many thanks to all the pupils who have helped as playground leaders since September. There are individual groups of six children that go to senior infants and first class every week. The pupils who have volunteered to be playground leaders are from 5th and 6th class.



Active School Homework

Ms. Sloyan and Ms. McCann are promoting Active School homework for the school this month. It is a part of the Active Flag initiative. Every teacher is required to give each class group an easy activity as a part of their homework. It can be as simple as going for a walk or even kicking a ball every night.



January Active School Challenge

On Friday the 2nd February the whole school wore county colours because the school football team were playing in McHale Park on Saturday the 3rd February. The 20 pupils who were attending the half-time game at McHale Park led the 11 B4 11 activities in front of all senior classes. It was a very eventful day.



Trip to McHale Park

On Saturday the 3rd of February, 10 boys and 10 girls received the opportunity to play at McHale Park during the halftime break at the Mayo and Dublin game.

The team arrived at the school at 4:30 to get changed into our new school jerseys. After that, we got on the bus and headed to McHale park. When we arrived, we went to the dressing room to get ready. We got to our seats that were reserved just for us. We took off our hoodies and jackets and lined up for the guard of honour as the teams came out. We lined up on each side of the tunnel to applaud them. After the teams came out we took our picture and headed back to our seats. We watched the first half of the match and ran on to the pitch to play in the halftime match. Both of our teams dominated the match and won. We watched the rest of the match and Mayo won in the last play with a wonderful point from Fergal Boland. After the match very few of us met players and got signatures. We headed home on the bus and on the way home we got Supermac's. What a wonderful way to end a wonderful day.



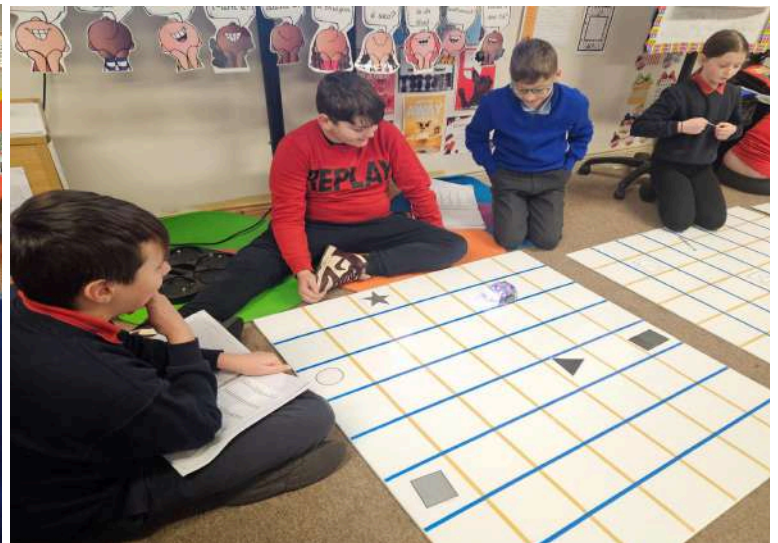
FAI Soccer League

This year the school is entering the FAI Futsal League. We are putting forward three teams of eight; two boys teams and one girls team. These teams will be made up of 5th and 6th class pupils. Futsal is 5 a side soccer but it has a few different rules. For example, the goalkeeper can't kick the ball out from play. Instead, the goalie has to throw it out. You also can't throw the ball in from the sideline when it goes out, instead you have to kick it. We are looking forward to the occasion and wishing our teams the best of luck!



Active Maths - Full of Playfulness and Maths Talk

Throughout the week, each class group participates in an Active Maths lesson. Active Maths is so much fun! So far we've completed tasks like iZack 9 cubes, Bee Bots, Blue Bots, maths trails and much more. As you can see, maths is a lot more than just writing in a book!





Curious Minds

Many of the classes are taking part in various STEM activities in the Curious Minds programme. Some of these activities are BeeBots, Coding, experiments and much more. We look forward to sharing more with you in the coming months.



January Assembly

The key themes celebrated during our January assembly were 'Families are Important' and our school rule 'Do My Best'. We also celebrated our Grandparents during our Catholic Schools Week school mass led by Fr. Paul and Fr. Denis. 3rd class performed a beautiful poem about grandparents and performed 'Inisheer' on their tin whistles. During the assembly Fr. Denis received his first St. Bridget's cross from the pupils and staff of St. Attracta's!



Catholic Schools Week

From the 22nd - 26th January, schools around Ireland celebrated 'Catholic Schools Week'. St. Attracta's NS celebrated the week by having a school mass during our January assembly as mentioned above. Ms. Deeney politely asked every pupil from 1st to 6th class to write their prayers on paper leaves which were later added to the school's prayer tree. Feel free to read them if you are ever passing by them.



Bilingual Paired Reading

Ms. Higgins purchased bilingual books and is organising for parents/ guardians from 3rd class to participate in paired reading with the children. As part of our Schools of Sanctuary initiative, 6th class students and teachers are organising paired reading with the junior classes also.

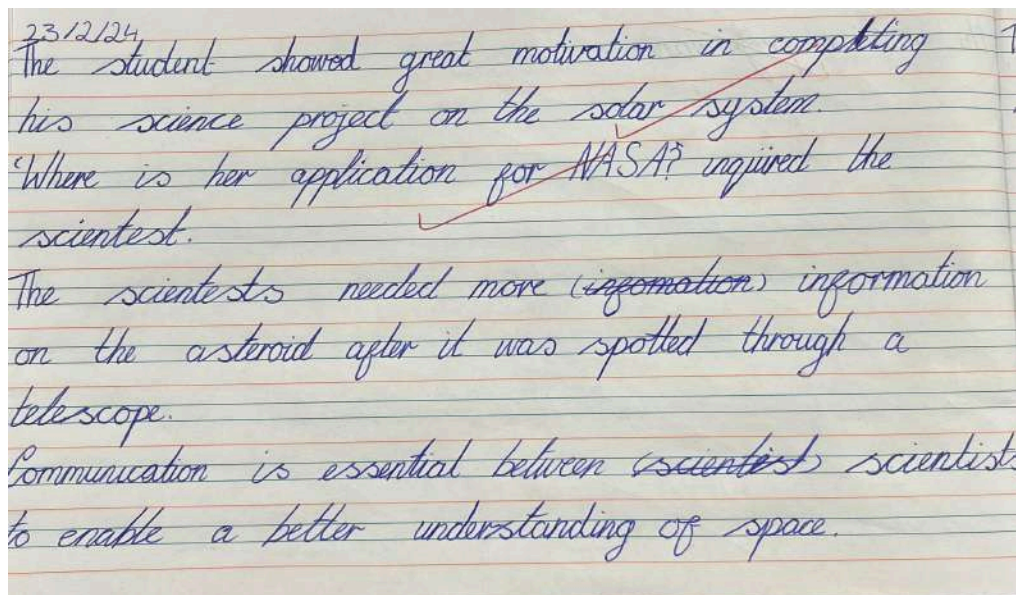
Reading Success with Accelerated Reading

This term, we are working hard to reach our AR targets in class. In January, the mobile library came to visit the school. It was great getting the opportunity to look at a new selection of books to read in class. When we finished reading our books, we completed AR quizzes to test our knowledge of the book.



Handwriting Mastery in St. Attracta's

The students of St. Attracta's have been focusing on practising their handwriting again this year. We are using the Nelson Handwriting programme. Here is an example of handwriting completed by a student in 5th class. Isn't it impressive!



Wellbeing Week

We celebrated Wellbeing Week from the 19th February - 23rd February. It was a huge success! Each day we focused on a different theme such as Mindful Monday, Tuneful Tuesday, Wellness Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Fun Friday. Every class engaged in different activities throughout the week from dancing during 11 B4 11 to mindful practice every day. The Wellbeing Committee also organised a parent evening in the GP room which promoted the importance of pupil wellbeing at home. Take a look at the gallery section of our school website for more photos of Wellbeing Week.





Schools of Sanctuary Day

On Thursday the 22nd February, our senior class students promoted the importance of wellbeing during our senior class assembly. The assembly also marked the celebration of our Schools of Sanctuary Day 'A Day Celebrating Differences and Belonging'. The pupils celebrated their differences and similarities during a show and tell, by greeting each other in different languages and by singing the song 'Hello to All the Children of the World' at the end of the assembly.





Attendance - Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!

In our school we are focusing on excellent attendance across all class groups. To celebrate full attendance, our junior classes get to select something from their classroom's lucky dip if they have great attendance. Our senior classes are currently completing a 10 day challenge which will result in hot chocolate for all pupils who don't miss a day. What a treat!



Every Day Counts!

After-School Clubs

Since the 16th January, a number of pupils from 3rd class have been taking part in an Arts and Crafts club every Tuesday. It's been a really enjoyable club so far!

Thanks to Freha for hosting the after school Coding class this year. It took place over 4 weeks. Well done to everyone who took part.

On the 22nd January, a 'Literacy for Fun' morning took place in the GP room for Junior Infants and parents. This continued for 3 weeks. We hope all our Junior Infants and parents had fun!

Ms. Higgins is starting a beginners Irish class after school club very soon. If interested please contact Ms. Higgins.

Credit Union and Cumann na mBunscol Quiz

Our quiz team members James, Alex, Richie, Ciarán and Kaylan have done us proud in representing the school this year in the above quizzes. Unfortunately, they did not get to the next round in the Credit Union quiz. However, the Cumann na mBunscol sports quiz was a different story. The quiz team came out victorious with an astonishing score of 97 out of 100 in their first quiz. The second team got a score of 89 which was equally impressive! It was a great day out for the team and Mr. Hughes. The next round was in An Sportlann in Castlebar on the 21st February. The team was in second place at half time by 1 point with 44/50. They were trailing behind Ballyhaunis with 45/50. In the second half, our team got an astonishing 49/50, winning with an astounding score of 93/100 beating Charlestown in second place by 3 points. They're now onto the next round in Claremorris on the 19th March. Good luck to the quiz team!



Internet Safety Day

On Thursday 1st February, we had a visit from Helen Butler. She came in to talk to 4th to 6th class pupils about how to be responsible and safe online. Thanks to Helen for sharing such important advice with us!



Connect - Our New Parent Newsletter

Please take a look at our new parent newsletter 'Connect' available on our school website. It's a great way for parents to see what is happening in St. Attracta's each month.

Connect Parent Newsletter
MARCH 2024

JUST A NOTE...

- On dropping and picking up your child by car please be **extra careful**. This is a very busy time and **SAFETY** is of paramount importance.
- The **St. Patrick's Day Parade** will take place on March 17th. Please support our school band on the day.
- Parent and child **paired reading** will commence with 3rd class in March. More details to follow.
- Bilingual books** available to read with your child in multiple languages. Please contact Orla for more details.
- Happy Easter** to you and your families. We hope you have a wonderful Easter break!

KEY DATES

- 6th March:** First Confession @ 6.30
- 7th March:** World Book Day & Ceremony of Light (5th & 6th Class) @ 7pm
- 18th March:** School Closure
- 19th March:** Cumann na mBunscol Quiz Connacht Final
- 21st March:** 4th Class bake sale
- 22nd March:** School closes for Easter holidays at 12 noon.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Chess-Finishing 26th March
- Baking-Beginning March 13th (TBC)
- Beginners (parents) **Irish class** starting soon. Please contact Orla (HSCL) if interested.
- English classes for all levels (parents) commencing soon. Please contact Orla.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Well done to our quiz team who won the Cumann na mBunscol county (Mayo) final and will now compete in the Connacht final on March 19th. We wish them, and Mr. Hughes, every success.

TOP TIP OF THE MONTH

Create a consistent and designated space for homework. This space should be free from distractions, well-lit, and stocked with necessary school supplies.
Orla (HSCL) Contact No: 0867930566

"BEHIND EVERY CHILD WHO BELIEVED IN THEMSELVES IS A PARENT WHO BELIEVED FIRST"

Frásaí na Coicíse - Ag Cleachtadh sa Bhaile

Why not practise our whole-school Irish phrases at home! During our January and February assembly, a few children from 6th class created short skits based around our Frásaí na Coicíse. It was great to see the language brought to life!



6th Class Trip to the Ozanam Centre

On the 1st February on St. Brigid's Day, a number of pupils from both 6th class groups went to the Ozanam Centre with Ms. Deeney and Ms. Callanan to meet a group of people from the local community. We played a few tunes for everyone and even made St. Brigid's crosses together. Fr. Denis joined us on the day. It was so much fun and everyone had an enjoyable time!





Ash Wednesday

Many thanks to Fr. Denis for visiting the school on Ash Wednesday. Fr. Denis blessed the pupils while making a sign of the cross with ash on their foreheads.



Confirmation Preparation in 5th and 6th Class

Our 5th and 6th class confirmation students attended the Ozoman Centre every Monday for three weeks in February as part of the 'You Shall Be My Witness' programme. Fr. Paul, Fr. Denis and Sr. Anne helped lead the Confirmation classes. Thank you to all the parents and helpers also. On 7th March, the Ceremony of Light will take place at 7pm in the Cathedral.



Getting Ready for St. Patrick's day

The marching band is getting ready for St. Patrick's Day. They are practising very hard every day in school. We can't wait to see them in action at the parade on St. Patrick's Day.



6th Class Visit to St. Nathy's

On the 8th February, 6th class students visited St. Nathy's College in preparation for next year. The focus on the day was to get a taste of the choice subjects they have on offer in the college. All the students had a great day and are excited to pick their subjects for next year.



**Míle buíochas daoibh go léir as ucht ár iris leabhar a léamh.
Tá siúl againn go mbainfidh sibh sult as!**



Written By:

Abbie Madden, Ciarán Lavin, Elisha Hoskins, Ceola McDonagh and Iman Asif



Quiz:

1. Where did the students from the Gaelic team go?
2. What tournament is the school taking part in soon?

3. Where did 6th class go on St. Bridget's Day?

4. Where did 6th class go on the 8th February?

5. What quiz did our quiz team win?

Quiz Answers:

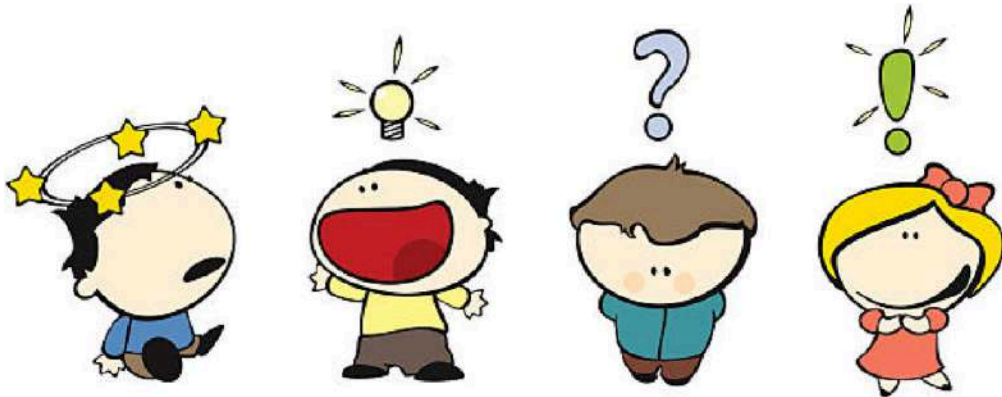
1. McHale Park

2. FAI Futsal

3. Ozoman Centre

4. St. Nathy's College

5. Cumann na mBunscol Quiz



Riddles:

1. What question can you never answer yes to?

2. What goes up but never comes down?

3. A man who was outside in the rain without an umbrella or hat didn't get a single hair on his head wet. Why?

4. What can you keep after giving it to someone?

5. You see a boat filled with people, yet there isn't a single person on board. How is that possible?

Riddle Answers:

1. Are you asleep?
2. Age
3. He was bald.
4. Your Word
5. All the people on the boat are married.

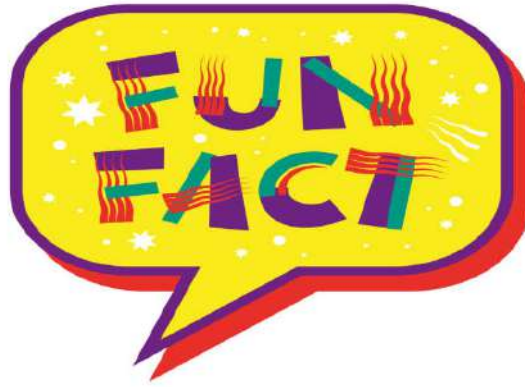


Jokes:

1. How many errors are in this sentence?
2. Will February ever march?
3. What made the hearse horse hoarse?

Joke Answers:

1. Extra m in many, only 1 r in error and error itself.
2. No, but April May
3. The Coffin



Fun Facts

1. Sudan has more pyramids than any other country in the world.
2. The Philippines consists of 7,641 islands.
3. There's enough gold in the world to cover the planet.
4. It takes a drop of water 90 days to travel the entire Mississippi river.
5. Lemons float but limes sink.