



WHAT'S UP @ ATTRACTA'S



What's Up at St. Attracta's NS

December 2023

Heritage Schools - Going Back in Time and Science is Fun

On Friday the 24th November, Michael Moylan from Heritage Ireland came to talk to 5th and 6th class pupils about World War 2. It was a wonderful experience. He taught us all about World War 2 and he let us dress up as soldiers and pilots. We even got to explore the different weapons from the war. They were all unloaded of course! A number of other classes engaged in an interactive Science show which all the pupils thoroughly enjoyed!





Preparing for School Performances

Every Monday, Tommy Doherty visits us and teaches us beautiful, melodious tin whistle tunes. We all learn a lot from him during our lessons and are very thankful.

Thanks to Mrs. Coyle for organising choir practice at school every Friday afternoon. Our school choir gives all the students who have a passion for music and singing a chance to sing together as a school choir.

Over the last number of weeks, Mrs. Coyle prepared the choir by teaching the students some calm and peaceful Christmas songs which they recently performed in a packed Cathedral on the 14th December.

Some of the 6th class pupils also performed a 'Nativity' play and played a selection of tunes on the tin whistle such as Inisheer and Íosagáin.



Lastly, all of the pupils of St. Attracta's NS have been busy preparing for their Christmas performances by practising their scripts, music, songs and poetry on a daily basis. I hope you all enjoy the plays and performances that will take place in the GP Room on Wednesday the 20th December. Many thanks to all the staff members who prepared their class performances over the last number of weeks.



We are an Active School

This year, the school is participating in many fitness activities in order to renew our Active School Flag. We are happy to report that we are making great progress in renewing our flag. Many thanks to the Active Flag Committee for helping us achieve our monthly goals!

Thanks to Kenny and Niall for visiting the school on Friday the 1st December and for organising active circuits for every class in the school. Thanks to the Active Flag Committee (5th and 6th class pupils) who helped them out as well.



Well done to all the classes who completed the 'Dare to Believe' fitness activities that took place over the last few weeks. It was a great opportunity to get to know members of the Irish Olympic team and to learn new fitness skills from Ireland's leading sports people. Maith sibh gach duine!



Well done to Kéalan from 4th class for coming up with our new Active Flag Slogan for this year. The slogan is **Hop, Skip, Run and Play, Let's Get Active Every Day!**



We have been doing very well in our 11 B4 11 fitness break on Fridays. Keep up the good work everyone!

Every Wednesday, 4th class attend swimming lessons at Claremorris Swimming Pool. They learn new skills each week from their swimming instructors. Well done 4th class!

The break time table tennis tournaments have been a great success so far. The class timetables for break time activities have changed in recent weeks to include chess on a Friday. Thanks to Iwona for hosting these events.

Well done to Liverpool for winning this year's breaktime soccer league. They went unbeaten throughout the whole tournament with 7 wins and 1 draw. What an impressive win!

The playground leaders are doing a great job with the younger classes. The little ones are having great fun learning how to play with the big parachute and much more.

Our December Active School activities were a huge success. The junior classes hopped aboard the 'Polar Express' and made their way to the local post office where they had an opportunity to send their letters to Santa. They finished their trip with a beautiful rendition of Jingle Bells.

Polar Express Postal Walk



Our 3rd to 6th class pupils participated in a Santa Dash Circuit Activity. The Active School's Committee set up a number of active stations which allowed students to race against each as they dashed through different types of stations to reach the finish line. Take a look at our school Twitter account to see the challenging tasks they faced!



6th Class Trip to Turlough House

On the 30th November, all of the 6th class students went on a field trip to Turlough House near Castlebar. We started by listening to some wonderful and amazing historical stories from a talented storyteller named Jack Lynch. He told us a number of stories from memory which we were amazed by. Two of our favourite stories were 'The Man with the Hats' and 'The Silent Prince'.

The Museum that we visited contained things associated with country life and ancient artefacts such as old statues, ancient utensils, woven items and much more! The museum also contained smart screens which had quizzes and recipes about food that was eaten at that time. It was incredible!

After spending a few hours in the museum, we headed off to the courtyard located near the museum and we all ate our delicious lunches before heading off to the playground to enjoy ourselves. The playground was spectacular! It had an enormous slide which brought us down to the lower level of the playground. There was an obstacle course on the second level which was so much fun. We were all glad that the weather was nice. 6th class pupils had a brilliant and memorable field trip all thanks to our great teachers Ms Callanan and Mr Hughes and SNA Tara.



The Future is Bright

Rebecca, in 6th class Horse Chestnut, recently graduated as a student of excellence from NUIG. Over the course of a few weekends, she studied 'Zoology' amongst other subject areas. The future is bright for Science in Ireland!



School Jerseys on the Way

Our new school jerseys are on the way. Ceola McDonagh in 6th Class Horse Chestnut designed them in September this year. The school team will have the jerseys for the upcoming season and we can't wait to see how they look!



Celebrating Respect and Friendship at our School Assemblies

Our school wellbeing theme this month is Respect and Friendship. We also focused on an important school rule - Be Tidy! It is very important to stay tidy and to keep the environment tidy. Last month, our school had a school mass which was led by the senior class pupils. We remembered our near and dear ones who have passed away or those we care for who are unwell. Pupils sang and played melodious tunes on their tin whistles. Thanks to Fr. Paul for leading our school mass in November.

Reading is Fun!

We are hoping to push our AR reading targets even further in Term 2 in order to improve our reading skills even further. Do you know that Irish teenagers have the best reading ability in Europe at present and also have the second best reading ability in the world. We want to prove why we hold those titles by smashing all of our reading goals using our AR reading app during Term 2 and 3.

Accelerated Reader

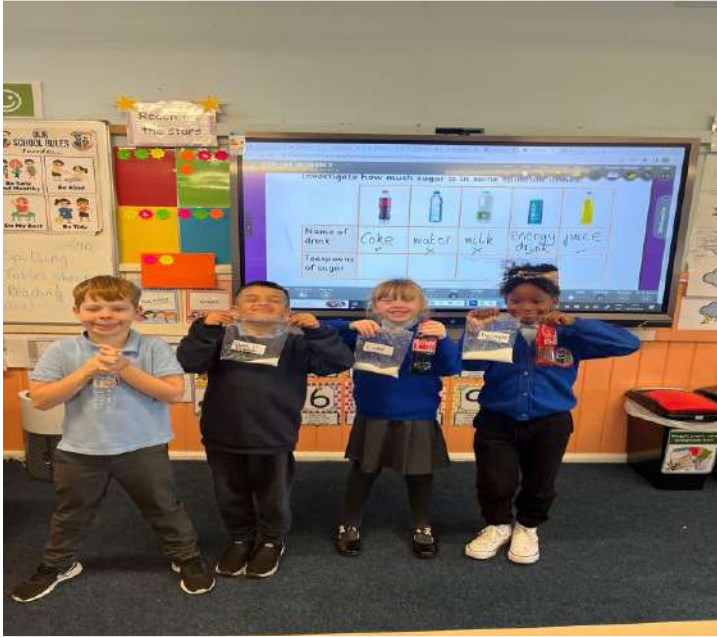
We all have Green Fingers in St. Attracta's

Every class in the school has had an opportunity to visit the school's polytunnel and plant a variety of bulbs before Spring. Thanks to Ciara for helping us plant our bulbs and learn about the importance of plant life.



Science Week 2023

Every class in the school participated in a variety of fascinating science experiments during Science Week which took place between the 12th - 19th November. Some experiments included Paper Aeroplanes, Rainbow in the Jar, Egg in Vinegar, Bouncing Balloons, Rockets and a lot more interesting experiment. We also took part in a number of STEM activities! We are really enjoying participating in the Curious Minds Initiative this year!



In November We Remember/ Advent

In our school we have a sacred space. Every month it is decorated differently to embrace what each month is about.

On Friday the 17th November we had a school mass because in November we remember those who have passed away or are unwell.

Pupils from 3rd to 6th participated in this school mass.



Welcome Fr. Denis

The pupils and staff of St. Attracta's recently welcomed Fr. Denis to the parish and gave him a welcome gift. He has moved to Ballaghaderreen all the way from Nigeria and he is a great addition to our town. Failte go dti ár mbaile Fr. Denis!



French Fun

A language teacher named Mr. Douglas Whittaker came to teach 4th and 6th class French for 8 weeks. We learnt lots of French phrases and songs while he was teaching us. Unfortunately for everyone Tuesday the 5th December was his last day with us. We had a blast on our last day and we hope we see him again soon.



RSA Visit

The RSA came to visit us recently to teach us about road safety. We learned a number of safety rules such as how to cross the road safely and how important it is to wear your high-visibility jacket when out and about in the early morning and late evening. Every class learnt a lot about road safety!



After-School Activities

We have many after-school activities taking place in our school. Iwona has been exceptional and has organised a variety of after school clubs for us. The after-school clubs our school has organised so far consist of chess, drama, singing, art and more. After-school clubs have been a huge success at St Attracta's this term!



Working Towards Attendance Success

Every month each class tries their best to get the best attendance possible. At our monthly assemblies we give out awards to the kids that get full attendance for the

month. The awards may vary between homework passes and a congrats for their success.

Two new initiatives were introduced in October to promote attendance success in the junior and senior side of the school. In the junior classes, pupils with full weekly attendance get an opportunity to pick a prize out of an exciting lucky dip bag or box. The senior classes are working towards a whole-class success by winning class stars. If successful in reaching the monthly attendance target, a class will receive a star. Once each class receives three stars, the whole class will win a big surprise. Attendance is the key to success!



Parent-Teacher Meetings

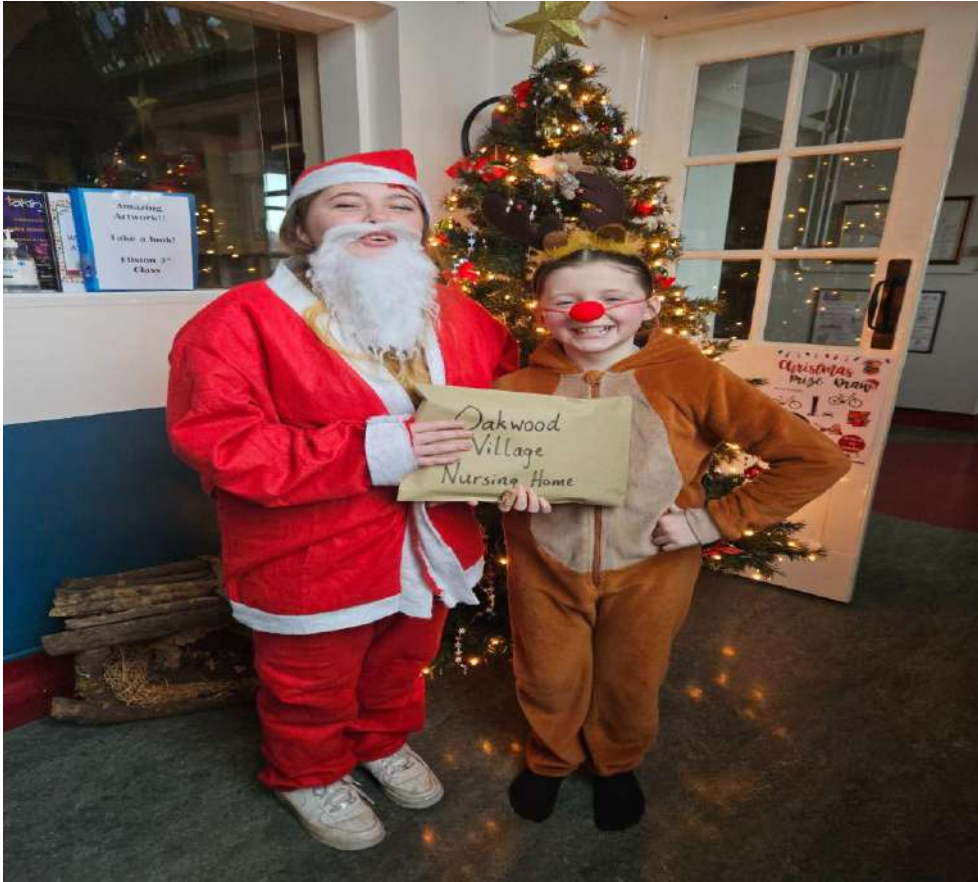
Thanks to all the parents who attended last month's parent teacher meetings. It means a lot to the school that parents came to see how their children are doing in school.

Bake Sale at St. Attracta's

The 5th class bake sale took place on the 17th November. It was incredible how 5th class made enchantingly delicious treats. All the treats sold out in no time. Everyone had a jubilant time and 5th class raised funds toward our gymnastics and aerobic boxing PE lessons that are taking place after our Christmas holidays. Many thanks to the Parents Association for helping organise the Bake Sale.

Thinking of Others this Christmas

6th class wrote letters to the residents of Oakwood Village nursing home and included a little treat for all the residents. Every pupil enjoyed updating the residents on their recent Christmas performances in the Cathedral and in school.



Christmas Raffle

There is a Christmas raffle taking place in St. Attracta's this month. The prizes consist of a bike for senior classes, a bike for junior classes, a PS5, a sports hamper, a Supervalu hamper, a GAA goal post and a basketball hoop.

The tickets cost €2 for one strip of tickets, €5 for three strips of tickets and €10 for 10 strips of tickets.

The money raised from the raffle tickets will be put towards aerobic boxing and gymnastic lessons for PE lessons this January and February.

We can't wait for the raffle to take place and see who the lucky winners are. The draw will take place on the 21st December.



Tá an Nollaig ag teannadh linn!

**Nollaig Shona Daoibh from the Pupils and Staff
at St. Attracta's NS**



**Written by: Ceola McDonagh, Mannat Puri, Iman Asif, Abbie Madden,
Ciarán Lavin and Sidra Salam.**



Were You Paying Attention to Our News?

Test Yourself Using Our Quiz!

1. What is the name of the 6th class play?
2. Where does 4th class go every Wednesday?
3. What team won the breaktime football league?
4. What date is the raffle winners being announced?
5. Who was helping the pupils with the planting?
6. What day of the week does the French teacher come in?
7. True or false? You can get 5 raffle tickets for €3.
8. What was the name of the storyteller from Turlough House?
9. Name one of the two people who came into the school on 1st December to do many fitness activities with us.
10. How many wins, draws and losses did Liverpool get in the breaktime soccer league?

Quiz Answers - No Peeking!

1. 'Rudolph Bocht'
2. Swimming
3. Liverpool
4. 21st December
5. Ciara
6. Tuesday
7. False
8. Jack Lynch
9. Kenny and Niall
10. 7 Wins, 1 Draw and 0 Losses.

Riddles!

1. What buildings have the most stories?
2. What can travel the world without leaving its corner?
3. I have lakes with no water, mountains with no stone and cities with no buildings.
What am I?

4. What can fill a room and take up no space?

Riddle Answers - No Peeking!

1. Library
2. Stamp
3. Map
4. Light

What am I?

Unscramble the letters at the end of the sentence to work out the answer.

1. I go up and I go down but I don't move. What am I? (srtias)
2. I have a tongue but I can't speak and I have eyes but can't see what am I?
(hseo)
3. I get wetter as I dry. What am I? (wlteo)

Answers - No Peeking!

1. Stairs
2. Shoe
3. Towel