



ST. ATTRACTA'S JNS SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome back

You are all welcome back to a new school year and we extend a particular warm greeting to our new Junior Infants and their families. We also extend a “Céad Míle Fáilte” to Mr Dylan O’Connor, Ms. Laura Woulfe and Ms Emma Muldowney, who have joined our staff. We also bid a fond farewell to Ms Niamh Slack together with her family who have relocated to Co Mayo in July. The school very much appreciates Niamh’s commitment and contribution to teaching and learning both as a class teacher and in her role as Assistant Principal over the last number of years. We wish her and her family success and happiness in their new adventure.

Below are some reminders to help maintain our smooth transition back to school...

Emergency Contact details

As you are aware we use Aladdin Connect to communicate with you as parents/guardians. However, this is not how you contact class teachers. Please review the information that you have already provided on Aladdin Connect and ensure that it is accurate and up to date **and** has the approval of the named emergency contacts. The Board of Management requires that each parent provides details of two emergency contacts who are **local to the school** in the event of us not being able to contact you if your child becomes ill at school. Ideally the named contacts should be able to reach the school within **15 minutes** of being called on to collect the child. Please be aware that there must be mutual consent by both parents in relation to the emergency contact details that you provide. In the absence of mutual consent the contact details provided by the parent with whom the child normally resides will be accepted as the default contact.

Class Whats App Groups

A number of parents have enquired about setting up class Whats App Groups. While this is a very nice thought especially in relation to including new parents, please note that the Board of Management precludes the school from facilitating the setting up of Whats App Groups due to GDPR considerations, and as to do so would mean the school could be deemed responsible in the event of inappropriate postings being made. Similarly in compliance with GDPR the school is not in a position to share the names or other contact details of the children in your child’s class.

To this end, I would also like to stress that if you have any concerns in relation to your child or any other school related issue, it is always preferable to communicate these directly to the school rather than using a social media platforms (like Whats App or Facebook) as the school is not in a position to address matters of an unsubstantiated nature.

Enrolments for September 2023

We will publish our Annual Admissions Notice later in the month. This will confirm dates from which applications will be accepted as well as the closing date for completed applications.



Contacting Class Teachers:

By now teachers will have shared their school email address with you to allow you to directly contact them during the year ahead. You are advised to contact the teacher during the school week only, and to please note that teachers will not access e mails during the school day- teachers will normally endeavour to respond to your messages after school has ended, or at their earliest convenience. However urgent messages during the school day should be channelled through the school office (e.g. changes in collection arrangements etc).

Absences and Illnesses

When your child is returning to school following absences it is the Parent's responsibility to inform the school through Aladdin as to the reason for the absence. Otherwise, it will be recorded as 'unexplained' in school records. There is no need to contact the school if your child is absent for a single day or two. However for longer absences, please contact the school by telephone.

Absences of more than 20 days in a school year are reported to the National Education Welfare Board, who will investigate the matter further.

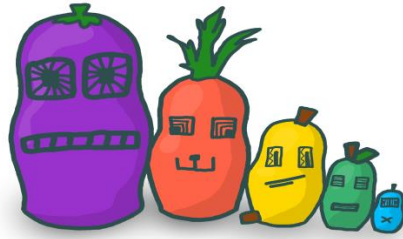
In the event of your child contracting a contagious illness it is imperative that you contact the school in order to allow us to inform other parents.

Children shouldn't return to school until they are symptom free for at least 48 hours.



Administration of Medicine:

If **prescription medicines** need to be administered to your child during school time, you will need to comply with the Board of Management's Administration of Medicine policy- If you haven't filled in an Administration of Medicine form previously, or if your child's prescription has changed since last year, please ask your class teacher for a form as soon as possible or download if from the school's website www.stattractasjns.ie – as medicines cannot be administered until this form is completed.



Healthy Eating Habits:

Thank you for complying with our Healthy Eating Policy which is attached to this Newsletter.

We would like to remind you again **not** to include nuts or products derived from nuts in school lunches owing to the number of children we have in the school who have severe nut allergies. We will continue to have a 'Treat on Friday'-however we will be monitoring lunches to ensure that treats are confined to Friday's lunchbox only. You are asked to send in water as a drink instead of juices/sugary drinks.

Collecting Children from School

It is the responsibility of parents to inform class teachers of any changes in relation to who collects children from school. If teachers are not informed of changes to collecting arrangements they will not release children from their care, and will instead contact parents for clarification. If you have any reason to collect your child early, please inform the teacher to expect you at an approximate time. Please collect from the front foyer as opposed to the outside classroom doors –at least 10 mins before or after the 10:30 & 12:30 lunch breaks. Children **cannot** be collected from the yard.

Health and Safety Matters-Car Parks:

For Health and Safety reasons, we are asking parents/child minders who are dropping off/collecting children, not to use the Staff car park on the Broadford Road side of the school. This car park has been designated for Staff use only by the Board of Management. Over the years there have been a number of incidents and 'near misses' involving small children walking too close to cars that are reversing in and out of spaces. If your child comes to school unaccompanied, please remind them that they must not walk through this particular car park.

Please exercise caution if delivering children to the Meadowbrook entrance of the school. It has been brought to our attention that motorists are driving at speed across the ramps at the zebra crossing between the Meadowbrook Complex and the Senior School. If you have particular concerns in relation to dangerous parking in the area surrounding the school you may report this to Dundrum Garda Station at (01)6665600.

We would also request that children refrain from cycling and using scooters in the school grounds, as well as **climbing on perimeter walls** and walking on the flower beds in the patio areas.

Furthermore parents are asked to ensure that the children leave the school grounds promptly after school finishes. It is particularly important that children are not allowed play in the long grass behind the perimeter wall that surrounds the yard. This area does not belong to the school and it can contain sharp objects e.g. broken bottles and stones as well as animal waste. **Parents** are asked to bring this information to the attention of **Child Minders/Au Pairs** who regularly use the area as a meeting point in the afternoons

Please note that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds when children are being delivered or collected.

School Improvements

In keeping with our commitment to maintain and improve the quality of the school we completed the 2nd phase of painting project which began last year. Painting of all classrooms in the school has now been completed. In addition the pathways from the Broadford Road Entrance and the area adjacent to the Senior School have been resurfaced during the summer. Much of the costs for the works were met by the Voluntary Contributions from parents over the past two years. We greatly appreciate parental contributions that facilitate these ongoing improvements.

A further improvement to the IT infrastructure over the summer has resulted in a significant boost to our Wi-Fi signal and strength which ensures that all of our IT resources (Tablets, iPads & Interactive Whiteboards) can be used simultaneously in all areas of the school building.

The Mechanical Works that were scheduled for the summer holidays have been deferred to summer 2023 owing to a delay in the release of funds by the DES.

Activities for the year ahead



Apart from the normal business of teaching and learning we hope to provide the children with a well-balanced selection of additional activities to enhance their school experience, starting off with a trip to Airfield Farm for 2nd Class children later this month. We have also scheduled workshops with Patrick Hunt who is a Heritage in Schools specialist, Niall Hatch from Birdwatch Ireland, Ballet Ireland and Ukelele workshops to name but a few.

As part of our Green Schools Programme we are encouraging the children to Walk on Wednesdays (WOW) which will commence next Wednesday. You may also like to take a visit around to our school garden where the fruits of the children's labours from last term are now in full bloom!!!!



Thank you as always for your continued co-operation, and please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or myself should you have any concerns in the year ahead.