

# Our Lady of Victories Infant School

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## September 2022 Newsletter

*Welcome back everyone! The Junior Infants have settled in very happily!  
Congratulations and thank you to all involved- children, parents, teachers, SNAs!*

*A special welcome to new members of the OLV Team:- Ms.Gaughran in Junior Infants,  
Ms.Keane & Ms.Smyth in Senior Infants and to Jolita Karbauskaite (SNA).*

### *Wellbeing/Resilience-Building/Child's Voice*

We have established a Wellbeing Committee with representatives from First Classes. Their contribution is really valued and will inform teaching, learning and policy. This area is one of growing interest in educational circles. Expect a short note soon from our **Wellbeing Committee** (First Class Pupils). Focus Groups from First Class will be surveyed on attitudes towards Literacy and Numeracy and their feedback will assist in our DEIS target planning. The Wellbeing Committee will meet and brainstorm with regard to exploring ways to further enhance school life and wellbeing of their peers and younger pupils. The children have given feedback on aspects of the Child Safeguarding Policy which is undergoing annual review. In-school Management will conduct a survey on focus groups in First Classes regarding attitudes to/experiences of **Literacy** and **Numeracy** which will inform our revised DEIS plans.

### *Teaching & Learning*

Staff is undergoing training over the year with regard to Inquiry Based Learning across curricular areas, including changing our approach to encourage children's curiosity, imagination, problem solving skills etc. You too can do similarly when you are on a day-trip, reading a story, your child playing with plastic containers in the bath etc. Ask open ended questions- questions that do not have yes/no as an answer. *What do you think might happen if? I wonder...? What if...? What do you think is happening...? How can you test your idea...? How might you solve the problem ...?* and so on.

### *Enrolment/Applications/Annual Admission Statement*

**Enrolment/Applications will be live on the website [www.olvinfants.com](http://www.olvinfants.com) from October 1st 2022 for Junior Infants for next September, 2023.** Our Annual Admissions Notification is available here too. Click on the link on October 1st to complete the application form. If your child is already in our school, you do not need to reapply for a place for next year. **Please inform relatives/friends who have pupils for September 2023, to go online as places can fill up quickly.** The school ceases to accept applications on 1st November, 2022. The period which applicants must accept an offer is 2 weeks i.e. 5th December 2022.

### *"In-Class" Programmes*

The teaching staff collaboratively deliver a range of stimulating literacy and numeracy programmes in each class. Children in senior infants and first classes will be familiar with these sessions. "In- Class" teaching resumes this week.

### *Cursive Writing in OLV*

A number of teachers enthusiastically piloted Cursive Writing which is now a whole- school initiative. Much research points to the benefits of cursive (joined) writing. This article is short and interesting ( just Google "The Benefits of Cursive go Beyond Writing New York Times) <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/04/30/should-schools-require-children-to-learn-cursive/the-benefits-of-cursive-go-beyond-writing> . Thank you to the SNAs who have prepared support materials.

### *SeeSaw*

We communicate childrens' schoolwork and related information through Seesaw. You may comment on your child's work or pictures sent by the teacher. **Seesaw is not a forum for discussion about behaviour or any other issue and teachers have been advised to facilitate appointments if you wish to communicate about any concern.** From time to time, the class teacher may have a quick chat in the yard with you or arrange a phone call. If you need an appointment to speak with the teacher, ring the office 01 8372372 . If you are having difficulty with SeeSaw, please contact **Claire, Home-School Liaison 087 4152165** who will assist you. We need everyone on board.

### *Bird-Feeders*

We invite each family to make a bird-feeder for our school garden, using recycled materials. Over the years, we have had some really creative bird-feeders! The bird-feeders really enhance the grounds in the winter and will be admired by all when we go on our Annual Autumn Walk.

### *Attendance Awards*

Prizes/Certs will be given by Ms. Thomas to our 100% Attendance pupils for September and each month going forward so please be in school every day (unless sick). We have very high rates of full attendance and it is expected here in OLV !

## *Dates for your Diaries !*

Thank you to the Parents who attended the overview meetings recently. Our Parent/Teacher formal meetings will be held in **January 2023**. The school Calendar is available on the Parents' Section of the Website- please refer to this. If the school has any early closures for staff development/meetings, you will be communicated to by SeeSaw/Email.

## *Autumn Walk Wednesday 19th October- (Parents invited )*



Our annual sponsored walk is always great fun and will be held on **Wednesday 19th October**, (replacing Winter Walk as we had before). **Parents are most welcome to join. Children have “Autumn Hats” already made in school for this day.** On this day, the entire school will go on an Autumn Walk. Junior Infants will remain on the school grounds and the Senior Infants and First Classes will walk over to Albert College Park/DCU. This walk will be a fundraiser to defray the cost of planned rubber surface area by the new building and outdoor STEAM learning panels (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics), the cost of which is approx. €27,000. Each child will have a sponsorship card; a second card is available if you wish. Children will perform poems/songs on the Autumn theme and have fun games along the way.

### **Hallowe'en Dress Up**

On **Friday 28th October**, children will dress up for Hallowe'en.

### **Christmas Concerts**

Our Concerts will be on the 14th (Wednesday) and 15th (Thursday) of December. While some parents have requested a date to plan time off; we cannot point to which day your child/ren will be on stage until costumes etc are organised.

### **Art Class**

For Parents in the Parents' Room Fridays 9am to 11am for the next 5 weeks- just arrive! The class is jewellery making for the next few weeks and all materials are supplied free of charge.

### **Maths Week**

Maths Week runs 17th - 21st of October this year. Claire is really keen to have a few reliable volunteers to play some simple board games and to help with the Maths Trail which will have an inquiry based element built in. *A note went home in the schoolbags for parents to volunteer to be Garda vetted.. please return to Claire.*

### **GAA/Soccer**

The children are enjoying learning a wide variety of skills and we welcome Aimee (GAA coach) and Gary (Soccer Coach); both coaches have a wonderful way with the pupils who love the lessons!

### ***Sunflowers/Biodiversity/Outdoor Garden***

Senior Infants and First Class children have sent in magnificent photos of their sunflower to the school. Thank you everyone. If there is anyone who did this and did not get a prize from the Treasure Chest, please encourage your child to remind me. Ms. Keane's class will sow Autumn onions in the new vegetable box (which we won in a Biodiversity competition last term).

### ***Botanic Gardens***

We encourage families to visit the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin which has a Sculpture Exhibition for the next few weeks.

### ***Ballymun Kickhams***

<https://ballymunkickhams.com/category/nursery-and-juvenile-news/>

We encourage all our girls and boys to join local clubs. Aimee from Ballymun Kickhams coaches here in OLV and he has a great way with the children. Our children, aged 4, 5, 6 and 7 are coached in 2 venues- St.Kevin's College Ballygall Road on Saturdays 9.30 to 10.30 and also in the grounds of Trinity Comprehensive School on Ballymun Road between 11 and 12 on Saturdays. Attend whichever venue suits you best. Just turn up wearing runners/football boots.

### ***A Few Reminders to Help Everything Run Smoothly:-***

Daily wearing of tracksuits goes hand in hand with our outdoor activities and Active Flag Initiative. **Clearly mark all your child's belongings, especially jumpers and sweatshirts.** Velcro runners work really well in the infant context and we encourage you to buy the same. If you have laces, please tie them properly/double knot.

### ***Respiratory Etiquette:-***

**Train/refresh your child today to "catch" sneeze/cough in elbow.** Pop a tissue up the sleeve each day.

**Head Lice**:-As children work and play so closely, please tie up hair in a bun/plait so that head lice can be avoided.

### ***Safety of Children***

**School Hours are 9.00 a.m. to 1.45 p.m.** School doors open at 9.00 a.m. and parents must legally (TUSLA) wait with their child at this young age, until the child is "handed over" at 9.00a.m. Junior Infants line up from 1.40p.m. We ask that all parents enter the front gate for collection. Please allow your child to line up in the morning on his/her class line and stand in the delivery/collection zone.

### ***Parking***

Following complaints, Gardai visited the office on Friday. Please do not park on the dual carriageway, bus-stop or in front of the Credit Union. Parking is available at the rear of the church.

### ***Punctuality/Appointments/Early Collections***

Punctuality, being on time, is a priority in our school for the benefit of each child and for smooth class dynamics. **Please make appointments for your child outside school hours. It is important to keep disruption to a minimum.** We are ever conscious of the security of the children in our care. **Children should not be collected early from school except in an**

**emergency.** Teachers have been instructed that children may not be collected from classrooms during school hours without permission of the Principal or Deputy-Principal. This is a necessary precaution. Habitually arriving late and early collection of children adds up to a lot of education time missed. Late arrival and early collection times are recorded. Please continue to send an email to [attendance@olvininfants.com](mailto:attendance@olvininfants.com) if your child is sick (Child's name, Class number, Reason for absence).

In the interest of Health & Safety of children and adults alike, **no cycling or use of scooters or skates** in the school yard and grounds is allowed. **No dogs** apart from assistance dogs are allowed in the school yard and grounds. (There has been a problem with dog dirt in the yard). We have a family of foxes residing on the grounds -if you see fox dirt, please alert a member of staff. Our helpful traffic wardens have requested that both parents and children walk **in front** of the wardens. Always **keep left** of the new school pedestrian gates.

### ***Books/Fees etc.***

We thank those who have already paid for books and request that any money owed be paid as soon as possible. We are paying off our book bills, licenses, and a multitude of resources next week. Reminder emails/texts will be sent home to a few families. If you need to pay in stages, arrange with Gwen please.

### ***Wellbeing Anthem***

The Junior Infants are becoming familiar with our Wellbeing Anthem which is at the heart of our Code of Positive Behaviour. A copy of the Wellbeing Anthem will be sent home with your child next week. Please display this in a prominent position. The children will explore all aspects of the concepts in the Anthem (composed by our pupils) over the course of their 3 years here. The theme ties in perfectly with our Positive Code of Conduct and Child Safe-Guarding Policy.

Thank you for your cooperation as ever.

*Mary McDonnell*  
Principal