

# Our Lady of Victories Infant School

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Newsletter- 29th September 2021

*Welcome back to all at the beginning of our new school year, and a very special welcome to our new Junior Infants and their Parents!*

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

## **Wellbeing/Resilience-Building**

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. A number of teachers did educational courses during the summer relating to positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience building. First Classes have been surveyed in relation to our Annual Review of Child Safe-Guarding policy which is being undertaken presently. The **Wellbeing Committee** (First Class Pupils) will meet and brainstorm with regard to exploring ways to further enhance school life and wellbeing of their peers and younger pupils. Thank you to the teachers who led the fun activities on **European Sports Day** on Friday.

## **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 always.

## **Books etc.**

We thank those who have already paid for books and request that any money owed be paid as soon as possible. Reminder emails/texts will be sent home to a few families. (**Book rental scheme/equipment/licences. Junior Infants €80.00, Senior Infants €85.00 and First Class €85.00**).

## **Enrolment/Applications**

Enrolment/Applications open online [www.olvinfants.com](http://www.olvinfants.com) on **October 1st for Junior Infants for next September, 2022**. Please go on to the website to complete the application form. If your child is in our school, you do not need to reapply. **Please inform relatives/friends who have pupils for September 2022, to go online as places can fill up quickly.**

### ***“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.

### ***Sunflowers***

Senior Infants and First Class children, please send in photos of your sunflower to the school website [office@olvinfants.com](mailto:office@olvinfants.com) or print off at home for the display downstairs. Some beautiful photos/writings have been sent in. Congratulations to Stefan Sramko who won the online September Sunflower maths challenge!

### ***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 Winter Walk in November. Many families will make their bird-feeders over the Halloween Break. Further information will be communicated before the Hallowe’ en break.

### ***Botanic Gardens***

We encourage families to visit the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin which has a Sculpture Exhibition for the next few weeks. First Classes visited last week and thoroughly enjoyed themselves- see video on the News page of [www.olvinfants.com](http://www.olvinfants.com)

### ***Ballymun Kickhams***

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

We encourage all our girls and boys to join local clubs. Gerry 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:-***

Tracksuits are generally worn Monday, Wednesday and optional on Friday and uniform on Tuesday and Thursday. We are not overly fussy if a tracksuit is worn more often, especially as we are ventilating the rooms and weather getting cooler. **Clearly mark all your child's belongings, especially jumpers and sweatshirts.** From time to time, we may request that tracksuits should be worn e.g. science field trips to the park etc.

**School Hours are 9.00 a.m. to 1.45 p.m.** School doors open at 9.00 a.m. Junior Infants line up from 1.40. 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. Please stand behind the yellow line at home-time until the teachers signal a safe handover. Adults wear masks.

### ***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@olvinfants.com](mailto:attendance@olvinfants.com) if your child is sick (Child's name, Class number, Reason for absence). **If your child has any Covid-19 symptoms, please keep him/her at home, in the interest of risk reduction.**

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.

### ***Lunches***

In fairness to other children, *fizzy drinks, sweets, crisps and chocolate (including Nutella)* will be returned in the schoolbag, as we encourage the children to eat a healthy lunch. Due to allergies and cases of diabetes, no birthday cakes or treats are allowed in school. **We are a nut-free school, due to allergies. Please respect this. No nut products are to be included in your child's lunchbox. We return food bags home so parents can monitor their child's diet and to reduce our waste on site.**

<p><b>School Calendar</b> : given last term is important to keep this for reference. Extra Copies in office. Calendar is also on Parents' Section on website <a href="http://www.olvinfants.com">www.olvinfants.com</a></p>
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Best wishes  
*Mary McDonnell*  
Principal