

Our Lady of Victories Infant School

Summer Newsletter

23rd June 2022

Dear Parents

There is a real atmosphere of Summer here in OLV! Tours were great fun. Here are some of the many highlights since Easter and a few pointers; -

Fun for All Sports Week & Tennis Coaching

The Sports Week was a resounding success. Thank you to the Active Flag Committee, SNAs and Aimee (GAA) for coordinating such a wide variety of fun activities. New PE resources were enjoyed by all. Tennis coaching was great fun today.

Sunflowers!

Our Annual Sunflower Planting day was a great event- thank you to all the Garda-vetted volunteers. Please tend to your sunflower: water and support with a bamboo/stick and transplant into the ground/large pot when it is approximately 10cm. Please email photos to: office@olvinfants.com

Open Day - New Junior Infants

We enjoyed meeting and greeting the Class of September 2022. A special thank you to Claire Thomas, the First Class Tour Guides and those who helped with the hosting in the hall.

Graduation Celebration for First Class

The children and parents thoroughly enjoyed a meaningful and enthusiastic graduation in the hall. It was such an uplifting celebration of a very memorable and unique and talented group of children. Thank you to the OLV team- Fr.Frank, Teachers, SNAs, Gwen. We will really miss our First Classes and wish them the very best in the senior classes, and in life. This great group, including the Wellbeing Committee, made such a difference- through debate and discussions, they voted the traditional uniform out! Transition to the senior school programme is complete. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents in First Class who have been so supportive of their children and the school over three years.

Ice Cream and Fun

Despite the drizzle and rain, the children and staff enjoyed a well-deserved treat on Wednesday. The ice-cream gentleman messaged me after the event, commenting on how well-mannered our pupils are. We are so proud of them. Thank you to the teachers and SNAs who are planning so many lovely activities towards the wind down of a very successful year. SNAs and Teachers have worked together so harmoniously throughout the year with the children's best interests always to the forefront. *Go raibh mile maith agaibh!*

Return to School

Pupils return together on **Tuesday, 30th August. NEW Junior Infants will start at 10 am and Senior Infants and First Classes at 9am.** Some teaching positions are not yet confirmed for next year- these details will be emailed with your child's room number during the summer. The children will line up in the yard in lines in front of room numbers on the first day back.

Tracksuit Sale

Gwen will sell tracksuits on 24th Aug (Junior Infants) & 25th Aug (Senior Infants & First Class) in the school hall from 11am to 1pm. Please try to buy Velcro runners as next year there will be a huge focus on outdoor activities/Active Flag. No "trolley-bags" in school please as they are a trip-hazard.

Library

We encourage all our families to join the library over the summer and to keep reading stories.

Critical Literacy & the Child's Voice

These are two areas that we will reflect on next year in our approach to teaching and learning and we will invite parents to do likewise. A school and home culture that encourages curiosity and wonder, querying and questioning will ensure critical thinking and problem solving skills. Ask open-ended questions- these are questions that do not have a "Yes" or "No" answer, but give opportunities for your child to express his/her ideas and thoughts. An example might be "What would you do if you found some magic beans?" "What might happen if a polar bear came into the house?" "Why did you decide to draw a seahorse?" etc.

How You Can Encourage your child's sense of curiosity and wonder during the summer!

While the cost of living is soaring, there are many opportunities for adventure you can explore. Here are a few ideas:-

<https://dublinkids.ie/listing/free-things-to-do-in-dublin-with-kids/>

Wishing all our families a safe and enjoyable summer

Reminder

Thursday 30th June – school closes 11.40 am – for Summer Holidays



Thank you/Míle Buíochas



I wish to extend a very sincere thank you to our Board of Management for their exceptional contribution to the harmonious running of the school; to Patrick Feeney, Chairperson; Fr. Frank Reburn, Rachel Brooks, Terence Bowden, Jennifer Dowling, Eva Fitzpatrick and Rehan Ali. Every member has generously given of his/her time and talents. The Board has handled complex matters with wisdom. They have ratified new policies and have striven in

a spirit of improvement, always considering the best outcomes for our pupils. We are most grateful.

Thank you to all our wonderful committed teachers and SNAs for their genuine dedication and diligent work. We have a very unique and committed team. Thank you to Gwen for her trojan work and for keeping the OLV administration running so calmly and smoothly. Thank you to Deirdre Fallon, Deputy Principal and senior management team Rachel Brooks, Claire Thomas, Zara Murray and Sara Gilchrist for their outstanding work.

Thank you on behalf of the Home-School Liaison teacher Ms. Thomas, to the many parents, guardians and grandparents who have helped in a myriad of ways to enhance school life. They have contributed in such a valuable way to a vibrant, learning, spirited community.

Thank you to yourselves, the parents and guardians for entrusting your precious children in our care. Your wonderful children are a credit to you. Time and time again, visitors comment on how polite and cheerful the girls and boys in OLV Infants are!

On behalf of the staff in OLV, we wish all our families a safe and very enjoyable summer. Looking forward to seeing our pupils back in August and wishing those going on to Second Class every success and happiness.

Mary McDonnell

Principal