



Our Lady of Victories Infant School

Summer Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

26th June, 2024

There is a real atmosphere of Summer here in OLV! We have had so many highlights this term and this year.

Active May & June & Outdoor Activities

Thank you to the Active Flag Committee: Ms. Brooks, Pupils, Teachers, SNAs and also for coordinating such a wide variety of fun activities. New PE resources were enjoyed by all. We look forward to maintaining a high level of stimulating and skill based sports and activities and we are proud of our Active Flag fluttering outside the school.

Notable Events and Initiatives in 2024

In the last two years, we started a new school journey of celebrating **Diversity and Inclusion**- Check out the News Page of the website www.olvinfants.com and you will see the fabulous, confident inclusion assembly delivered by children and teachers. This ceremony was attended by MEP David Andrews. Our **Inclusion/Diversity** initiatives and events were meaningful and memorable and symbolise the spirit of inclusion and diversity in our school.

Thank you to Sorcha, our **Play Therapist** and Niamh, our **Music therapist** whose work was really valuable. Thank you to John Divilly and his team of voluntary builders who created the beautiful and much needed **Marshmallow Room** for the campus. Thank you to Bergi for his inspiring **music lessons** and to Ms. Malone for organising our first **Music Day** recently- a huge success.

A number of OLV Infants proudly represented the school at **BLOOM**, singing a song that won **1st place in the NDC Awards**- they also featured on RTE! A group of children and parents represented OLV Infants in the Mansion House, following a **1st place win in Dublin Environmental awards**- a huge coup!

Annual Sunflower Week was a success and many children have upskilled in gardening- thank you to them for their work in the garden. Please tend to your **sunflower**: water and support with a bamboo/stick and transplant into the ground or a big pot. Gwen loves receiving photos of your sunflowers and we display the photos in September- and a visit to the treasure chest! Please email sunflower photos to: office@olvinfants.com

We maintained all our wonderful **OLV Infant traditions** like seasonal celebrations, our Wellbeing Anthem, several Wellbeing Initiatives & Programmes, Winter Walk, Christmas Plays, Maths & Steam Fortnight, Spring Service, Open Day, Graduation and so on.

As part of our DEIS plan, we engaged in further **Inquiry Based Learning** which has so many benefits. First class children explored the **Growth Mindset** and the **'Power of Yet'** which will build their confidence and self esteem and allow them to be patient with themselves. This showcases the power of the child's voice as nurtured in OLV. The **Child's Voice** has been encouraged and fostered in a myriad of ways.

Graduation Celebration for First Class

Parents and grandparents enjoyed an Oscar winning graduation ceremony ! It was such an uplifting celebration of a very memorable and unique and talented group of children. We will really miss our First Classes and wish them every blessing and the very best in the senior classes, and in their lives. Thank you sincerely 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, Tours & Fun

A well deserved ice cream was enjoyed by everyone last week- courtesy of the Board of Management. Thank you to the teachers and SNAs organised so many lovely activities towards the wind down of a very successful year. Tours were very exciting.



I extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who is part of the team in OLV Infants. You, our loyal and supportive parents, your wonderful children who have made us all proud. We thank our dedicated, passionate teachers and SNAs who have enabled pupils to have a successful and happy 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!*

A very special thank you to Deirdre Fallon, our exceptional Deputy Principal for her great vision and trojan work. Also to our dynamic In School Management Team for working so harmoniously for pupils and fellow teachers. So much has been achieved both academically, DEIS targets, and certainly in terms of the children's wellbeing and confidence. A **wellbeing survey** was sent to the first class children and the findings were really positive. Some parents contacted us saying how impressed they were with the maturity and scope of their children's responses. We will look at these responses in more detail when we review policies in September. **Thank you girls and boys in first class!!**

Thank you to Fr. Frank Reburn who supports our staff and pupils and for his gentle, good-humoured and spiritual way. Thank you to our wonderful Gwen for keeping the ship afloat! Caretaker Derek's reliability, skills and always '*going the extra mile*' are appreciated by all. Thank you to Inga, our great cleaner, who reliably cleans daily with pride and a smile. Thank you so much to Lorna Murphy, our Home School Liaison teacher who has enjoyed getting to know our families and is always available to guide and support.

Board of Management

Finally, a sincere thank you to the Board of Management - generous and conscientious volunteers with a positive and caring disposition, who give so much of their time and pool their skills, always in the best interest of the children we serve. I am very grateful for their ongoing support.

Return to School

Pupils return together on **Friday 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 and Ann-Marie will sell tracksuits on Wednesday 21st August (Junior Infants) & Thursday 22nd August (Senior Infants & First Class) in the school hall from 11am to 1pm.

Tracksuits are €40 and shorts are €15. Please bring cash as we do not have a digital machine as wifi is unreliable. 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 on crowded corridors/stairs..

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 identified and focused on in our approach to teaching and learning in our DEIS plan and we 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 kangaroo came into the house?*” “*Why did you decide to draw a penguin?*” 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. The local parks and Santry Woods, National Botanic Gardens are great amenities. If you are on social media, the National Botanic Gardens have instagram and offer really lovely free educational activities for children. Here are a few ideas for things to do in Dublin:-

<https://www.visitdublin.com/guides/free-things-to-do-families-dublin>

Emergency Works

Our shared hall is undergoing mechanical and electrical emergency works, paid by the Department of Education, over the summer.

Treasure Chest

Thank you to parents who have donated prizes for the Treasure Chest!

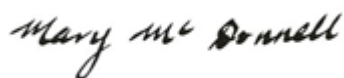
Aladdin App and Attendance

Management is excited about Aladdin as it is such a user friendly APP that allows parents and school to link up. We are determined to raise our attendance percentages next year. We want all parents on board with us to this end. With the Aladdin App, you , as parents, will have so many school details at your fingertips. Any sickness/absence will be reported by parent/guardian, giving a reason from a menu. Lorna Murphy will assist any parent who needs help in installing 0874152165 is her number- please save on your phone.

Reminder

School Closes Friday 28th June at 11.30 am for Summer Holidays

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. Slán agus beannacht.



Principal