

**OLV GIRLS SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER WEEK 3**

Dear Parents,

 I hope this email finds you well and you and your families are staying healthy and safe. Everyone has settled in so well to Our Lady of Victories Girls’ School. The new routines and breaktimes are now just normal to us all, and classes have settled down into calm, happy places.

**September Class Meetings**

**2nd and 3rd Classes:** We will be in touch with you shortly about an on-site, socially distanced class meeting with your daughter’s teacher in the school hall. This will most likely take place early in the morning before school (8.15am-8.35am approx) to facilitate working parents and the ventilation of the hall prior to PE use. Children will be supervised in the yard while the meeting with parents is taking place. Confirmation of dates will follow.

**4th, 5th and 6th Classes:** We will be in touch shortly about details of your class meetings. As you are very familiar with the school, these will take place remotely via Zoom/Google Meets/SeeSaw, as we will not have time to meet with all individual classes in a timely fashion.

**Wellbeing and SPHE**

As instructed by the DES, Wellbeing and SPHE are core elements of teaching and learning in the opening weeks of school. We have begun our Weaving Wellbeing programme in the school. Please ask your daughters about this- all details are available online. We are engaging with Ballymun Anseo SCP on-site throughout the week, with small group work, one-to-one and drop-in wellbeing groups taking place in our new Ballymun Anseo SCP room.

**PE and outdoor activity**

We have engaged with Gerry from Ballymun Kickhams, Julz from Leinster Rugby and Catherine from Streets Ahead Dance. All visiting coaches are following necessary protocols when visiting the school. The children are thoroughly enjoying their engagement with these coaches.

The DES has encouraged as much use of the outdoor space available to us as possible. Each class is visiting Albert College Park, the Boys’ School grounds and going on community-based walks on a daily basis.

Decathalon have been in touch to offer the free use of their outdoor basketball court, football pitch and indoor sports facilities. This will be organised in the coming weeks, and we will be in touch when your child’s class may visit. We will start with the senior classes (4th-6th).

At the moment, we are awaiting communication from Ballymun Swimming Pool about swimming lessons, however I am unsure if these will go ahead in the 2020/21 school year.

**Curriculum Work and SET support**

As per the DES guidelines, the teachers are working with the curriculum content, objectives and learning outcomes for the previous class level for at least the month of September in order to ensure that pupils are ready to commence new learning.

Following a meeting this Friday, SET teachers will be in touch next week re IPLPs/IEPs and Continuums of Support with appropriate parents.

**Homework**

We are currently working in the same way as most schools across the country and opting not to give official school homework. Over the coming week, we will be in touch with all parents regarding SeeSaw and we will be setting very simple tasks for the girls to complete at home, so then can become familiar with sending their teacher homework in this way.

We would encourage as much outdoor activity as possible after school, while the weather holds up!

**Bike Week**

Next week is national Bike Week and we would love to see more children cycling and scooting to school. We are going to run a very simple SeeSaw competition for the girls. Keep your eyes peeled for a message from Ms Haughton, who is coordinating Bike Week in the school. We are also on the search for any old bike wheel rims for an art project, so if anyone has any lying around or has a contact in a bike shop please let us know!

**Some rules to remember:**

* Tracksuits and runners Tuesdays and Fridays
* All hair must be tied up
* No fake nails or jewellery allowed (small stud earrings are fine)
* No mobile phones or smart watch devices allowed that can take recordings etc.

**Speaking to your daughter’s class teacher**

As we do not have homework journals at the moment, if you need to speak to your daughter’s class teacher, please ring Ms Durnin in the office on 01-8379833 and the teacher will call you back as soon as possible. Alternatively, every morning myself and another teacher are on ‘gate duty’ at the main pedestrian gate and we can pass on any messages you may have.

I must ask that you do not approach teachers at home time. As mentioned previously, this is a highly stressful time of the school day for teachers, as they are still working monitoring how the children are going home, who is collecting them etc.

I hope you can all get out and enjoy the beautiful weather this afternoon.

With my very best wishes,

Lorna Greene

School Principal