**Our Lady of Victories Girls’ School,**

**Ballymun Road, Dublin 9. Roll No: 18911R**

**Principal:** Lorna Greene **Telephone:** 018379833/ 0861805158

 **www.olvgns.ie** **Email:** office@olvgns.ie

 25th February 2021

Dear Parents,

As you know a plan has been put in place for our 2nd class pupils to return to school from Monday 1st March 2021. Depending on the advice from NPHET, we are hopeful that the 3rd to 6th class pupils can return to school on March 15th 2021. However, please be advised that is only a target date- nothing has been confirmed!

I encourage you to review the Updated Covid Response Plan, Risk Assessment and latest advice around school ventilation on the school website- <http://www.olvgns.ie/policies.html>. Please also see the attached document for advice from the department of education in conjunction with the HSE.

**You must fill out a RETURN TO SCHOOL form which you will receive via text message from the school on Sunday. This form must be completed before the children enter school grounds on Monday morning.**

Our opening time for 2nd class will remain the same at 8.40am and will finish at 2.20pm. We are very much looking forward to seeing the girls back.

Some points to note:

* Please pack all school books, copies and materials away after use tomorrow Friday 26th February.
* Please make sure all school items are returned to the school on Monday morning.
* If you borrowed any school items e.g. iPads, laptops etc, these must be returned on Monday with the chargers.
* If you brought home the book box from the school, please disinfect the box at home on Monday morning, before bringing it back to school.
* We will have a large trolley at the front gate on Monday, so the children will not have to carry heavy boxes or bags themselves to the classrooms.
* School lunches will be provided every day.
* We are advising the girls to wear their school tracksuits every day until the rest of the school returns, as although the heating has been on every day since 11th Jan, the building remains quite cold, because of the lack of people here. It also means more outdoor activity and PE for the girls!

It is vital we all play our part to keep the school open, and allow for the rest of the school to return on 15th March 2021- please continue to follow all HSE guidelines about the symptoms of Covid-19. **Please do not congregate at all near the school entrance**. The lollipop people will be in place and will assist the children crossing the road so please send the girls in independently- you do not need to accompany them to the entrance gate.

At home time, **please do not congregate at all near the school exit**. Again, the lollipop people will be in place, so you can direct your child to meet you across the road at the church/beside the Credit Union etc. There will always be multiple staff supervising at home time. There will only be 47 girls leaving and entering the school for the next two weeks, so it gives us all a great opportunity to teach some more independence to the children in 2nd class. **If you feel you must collect your child from the exit gate, please wear a mask and maintain 2m distance from all other adults around you, including staff members.**

**Your child MUST be collected at 2.20pm.** Having multiple children gathered from different classes waiting for late parents/guardians cannot continue to occur.

The Board of Management wishes to inform you that issues may arise with our staffing levels over the coming months, due to the number of staff members on sick leave and those who are deemed high-risk by Medmark. The Board of Management will endeavour to seek suitable substitute cover, however please be advised that there is a huge shortage of substitute teachers available in Ireland, and particularly Dublin. The school inspector and Archbishop’s House have been informed of the Board of Management’s concerns. I will be in touch with any classes and children who receive SET support, who may be affected by this issue.

We really can’t wait to see the girls back in the school on Monday. If for any reason your daughter will not return to school on Monday 1st March, please inform the school immediately at either of the phone numbers above or the office email address. If you have any further queries, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Lorna Greene

School Principal