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

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

Principal: Lorna Greene Telephone: 01 8379833

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 2nd December 2021

Dear Parents,

We have another exciting Christmas planned in OLV Girls School, with each week having a different theme.

**Week 29th Nov- 3rd Dec is our *Walking in a Winter Wonderland* week!**

The children will begin decorating their classroom doors for our Christmas Door Competition. The whole school will go for a Winter Walk on Friday 3rd Dec dressed in Christmas jumpers and hats and scarves (weather permitting of course). The girls will be treated to a delicious hot chocolate on their return. They might even sing a carol or two walking around the community!

**Week 6th- 10th Dec is our *Christmas Lights* week!**

The school will become a glittering palace with the Light Ceremony taking place on Wednesday 8th December- our school crib will become illuminated, and lights will shine all over the corridors.

The Christmas Door Competition will be judged with the winning class being announced on Friday 10th December- a pizza party is the prize up for grabs!

We will also begin our appeal for Ballymun Soup Run this week. We will send out a list of suggested donations that we are looking for, to support this wonderful group who do such tremendous work every week supporting the most vulnerable in our local community.

**Week 13th-17th Dec is our *Santa’s Grotto* week!**

Santa’s Elves have been busy creating a Santa’s Grotto on the upstairs corridor, where all the children will receive a special gift from the school.

We will sing some Christmas Carols in the yard and the children will be asked to bring in a Kris Kindle (Secret Santa) present for one of their friends- an absolute maximum of €5 should be spent on this gift. *If you do not wish your child to be involved in this, please email your daughter’s class teacher.*

This week we will also have a special Christmas Jumper Day, where we will ask the children to donate €2 each towards the fundraising we are doing for new ICT and furniture in our new extension (unfortunately the grant we have received from the Department of Education will not cover the costs involved).

**Week 20th-22nd Dec is our *Christmas Panto* week!**

The children will exchange their Kris Kindle gifts this week and will watch the Helix Panto ‘Red Riding Hood’ online. School will close at 11.20/25am for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday 22nd Dec.

**Some other points to note:**

* **Remembrance Service-** Many members of our school community have suffered devastating losses over the last year. Father Frank will dedicate a mass to those families later in December. You are invited to join in the live feed from the church which can be found on [www.olv.ie](http://www.olv.ie) or indeed join him in the church that morning. We will be in touch with the date.
* **Mask wearing-** as you know a recommendation has been made by NPHET to the Department of Education that children from 3rd-6th class should wear face masks in school. The Department has indicated in their communication to us that schools will be best placed to identify those children that the wearing of face covering may not be possible for them. *If you feel your daughter cannot wear a face mask in school, please email the class teacher or put a note in your daughter’s journal so we can keep that on file in the event of a Covid Compliance Inspection from the Department of Education.* The letter issued to parents from CMO Tony Holohan is on the school website for your perusal. I will be in touch with the school community when we have more guidance on the issue.
* **Christmas message-** The teachers will be recording a short Christmas message from each of the classes and will be sending this to you via email. *If you do not wish your child to be involved in this recording please let them know immediately.* As per school Child Protection and GDPR policies, we ask you not to share these images or recordings on social media sites.
* **Christmas Raffle-** We will be holding a raffle for two giant Christmas hampers donated by Glanmore Foods. The proceeds from this will go towards our fundraising for ICT and furniture for our extension. Tickets cost €2 per strip or €5 for three strips.
* **Toast-** The children will continue to receive toast three days a week over the winter months- this is really going down a storm with both the pupils and staff!

All my very best wishes,

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Lorna Greene

School Principal