

APRIL 2024 NEWS



Please read about:

Our learning

Reminders

Dates for your diary

Easter Holidays

School will finish at the normal time on Wednesday 27th March for the Easter Holidays. Children will return to school on Monday 6th April at 9am.

Cost of Living Parents Course

This is a 4 week course begins **on every Tuesday in April** beginning on 9th April. £20 Lidl voucher will be given to participants to complete all 4 weeks!



May bank holiday closures

The school will be closed on Monday 6th May, Monday 8th May, Friday 24th May to Tuesday 28th May 2024. It will reopen on Wednesday 29th May at 9am.

Important dates for your diary – 3rd June - School Photographs, 5th June Parent and Child trip to farm.

Our Learning

COLOUR THEME:

We will focus on YELLOW, basing some of our art and craft activities on YELLOW. Please encourage your child to discuss YELLOW at home and look for yellow items in their environment.



FLIGHT/ MOVEMENT

We will discuss and investigate various methods of flight i.e.

Rockets Aeroplanes Helicopters
Hot air balloons Kites

We will name people associated e.g. Pilot, Astronaut, Captain and Navigator.

We will explore our solar system and examine planets and space.

We will learn through imaginative play about travel.



MATHEMATICAL EXPERIENCES

Our shapes for the month are a square and rectangle and we will provide a comprehensive range of activities and support materials to further explore shapes. Please encourage your child to find shapes at home and in the environment.

E.g. a clock face is a circle
some traffic signs are triangular
our door is a rectangle
some windows may be square

It's fun to look around and discuss these shapes.



DEVELOPMENT OF PLAY

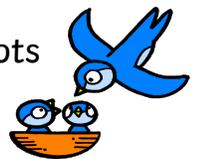
We are encouraging concentration in play, persistence and perseverance at activities and determination to finish a task. Interaction and willingness to share equipment and resources will continue to be encouraged.

ECO NEWS

We will continue to discuss evidence of spring. Look out for green buds, shoots and leaves everywhere. We will examine, observe and discuss the change in our nursery garden from buds, blossom and leaves.

We will look at the homes that birds make in bushes and trees and examine materials used for building nests – twigs, grass, wool and moss.

We will continue to observe springtime in our garden and plant seeds.



Dental Nurse Visit and Tooth brushing Programme

On the 15th April the dental nurse will visit our school to talk to the children about healthy and unhealthy food, which affects our teeth. She will also

highlight the importance of brushing our teeth and about the importance of visiting the dentist regularly.

We have begun our tooth brushing programme in school and the children brush their teeth after their lunch. Children should continue to brush their teeth twice daily at home and visit the dentist every 6 months.

LIBRARY VISIT – 30th April

The children will have a visit from the staff of central library. They will listen to a collection of stories and find out more about their local library.

Home Learning

Every child was given a **home learning bag** with various activities as part of our Getting Ready to Learn Programme. This bag is to be kept at home to be used at your leisure and can also be in the case of school absence.

Our website has many ideas and activities for you to extend your child's learning at home. Please click on <https://www.victorianursery.org.uk/home-learning/>.

Every two weeks your child will be given a 'Lending Library Bag' to enhance our promotion of Language and Literacy in the curriculum. The bags will be distributed on Thursday afternoons and should be returned the following Monday morning.

You can follow our **High 5 positive behaviour programme** focusing on Play, Praise, Commands, Rewards and Consequences. Links to webinars and content can be found on our website <https://victorianursery.org.uk/parents/high-5-positive-behaviour-programme/>. It is vital that we work together to support children to display positive behaviour so they have a successful school experience.



REMINDERS



- Please pay dinner / snack money on Monday (Wednesday morning at the latest), try to have the **correct** money placed in your named envelope. The school secretary makes the new envelopes on a Wednesday morning.
- Please supply a box of tissues and 1 packet of baby wipes, and 1 bottle of hand soap after Easter.
- Please ensure your child has a change of clothes in their bag in the children's bathroom.
- Inform staff immediately of changes to address / telephone numbers (this is vital in order to update records and to ensure you receive text messages from the nursery).
- As the days become warmer children will be removing their jumpers. Please ensure all jumpers are identified with your child's name. If not clearly labelled the jumpers will be placed in a 'Lost Property' basket.

- Please ensure that sun cream is applied on hot days before attending school, staff are unable to apply or re-apply sun cream due to the possibility of allergies.

Parent Communication

If you want to discuss anything regarding your child please speak to us. Brief communication should be discussed on arrival. If you want to discuss anything regarding your child in more detail please phone between 8.30am and 9am or contact the school via email info@victorians.belfast.ni.sch.uk. Only phone the school during teaching hours if it is an emergency.

SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

North Belfast Foodbank - The school is a referral agency for the North Belfast Food Bank. Families can avail of this twice in a six month period. If you would like a voucher for the service please speak to Mrs McAllister.

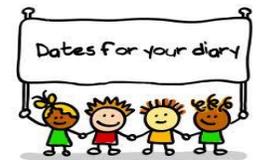
FOOD PANTRY – the school can refer parents to the Ashton Pantry, where you can become a member for a weekly membership fee of £5.00, for this fee you will be able to avail of a weekly shop with a value of approximately £40.00 for 12 weeks. Please speak to Mrs McAllister about this programme

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cost of Living Parents Course – Tuesdays in April 9am –11.15am –

This is a 4 week course **on Tuesday the 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th April**

from 9am – 11.15am will focus on issues we are face as families. Themes include family meal planning, play and reading time developing a family budget, personal wellbeing and how to manage our children’s behaviour. This course will be facilitated by Orla McAllister in the school. Parents who come to all 4 weeks will receive a £20 voucher for Lidl. All parents and grandparents are welcome - please contact staff for more information.



May bank holiday closures

The school will be closed on Monday 6th May, Monday 8th May, Friday 24th May to Tuesday 28th May 2024. It will reopen on Wednesday 29th May at 9am.

School Photographs

Children’s individual and class photographs will be taken on Monday 3rd June 2024. Family photographs can be arranged in the morning from 8.30am – please book a slot with Mrs McAllister.

Parent and Child trip to the Farm – Date: Wednesday 5th June

We are going to Sprinavale farm on Wednesday 5th June. This is a parent and child trip – **all children MUST BE accompanied by 1 family member**. The cost of the trip is approx £23 per child and parent_- **the school will cover the cost of the trip through the snack fund.**

Parents and children should arrive at the school by 9.55am. The bus will leave at 10am and arrive in Sprinavale at 10.30am. Parents will accompany their child around the farm. A packed lunch will be provided for your child. You may want to bring a snack for your child and a lunch for yourself. The bus will take us back at 1pm and you will be dropped back at the school by 1.30pm.

You will receive an activity sheet on arrival detailed with the activities and the times they will be taking place at. You will also receive a map of the farm on arrival. I have attached a copy of the map from last year for you to have a look at. <https://streamvale.com/>



The school staff wish to thank you for your continued help and support.