

May and June 2024 NEWS



Please read about:

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

May bank holiday closures

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

Important dates for your diary – 16th May – Central Library visit, 3rd June - School Photographs, 5th June Parent and Child trip to farm, 12th June sports event at St Patricks 10.30 – 11.30am

Last Day of Term – Friday 28th June at 11am

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 8th May – Health Visitor 3 year review

The school health visitor will visit the school on Wednesday 8th May to meet with parents individually (9.30am – 11.30am). On the 6th May you can choose a ten minute slot for your appointment with the Health Visitor. The week prior to the meeting you will receive a questionnaire form for you to complete.

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

We are going to Streamvale farm on Wednesday 14th June. This is a parent and child trip – **all children MUST BE accompanied by 1 family member.** (see more details later in the newsletter)



Central Library Visit – 16th May

Each month the children have a visit from Sian from Belfast Central Library who reads to them and sing songs. On 16th May we will have an outing to central library for the children and parents. This is for a Teddy Bears Picnic event. We will leave school at 10.10am and return at 11.40am. **We would encourage as many parents to accompany us on this walk.**

Partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College - 17th May

NVQ level 3 students from BMC will visit our school on 17th May to facilitate outdoor sports activities alongside our staff. This will help develop the skills of local students by learning from an experienced and skilful setting.

Shared Education with Shaftsbury Nursery School

Friday 31st March 9.15am – 11.30am

As part of our shared education partnership we will travel to Shaftsbury Nursery School by bus on Friday 31st May and take part in fun and outdoor play sessions. The bus will leave our school at 9.15am and return at 11.30am.

School Photographs – 3rd June

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



Outdoor Sports Event – 12th June

The children will travel to St Patricks PS on 12th June at 10.15am to take part in a fun outdoor activities (from 10.30am – 11.30am). Parents are welcome to accompany the children on this visit.



Outdoor Music Session – 20th June

The children will take part in a special summer music session with musicians Heidi and Sammy. They will get to experience a variety of instruments such as the harp, guitar, violin, mandolin and get to join in with our own instruments. Heidi and Sammy visited our school in November and December and were so impressed with the children's listening skills and rhythm that they asked could they come back!

Parent Courses

The final session of the Cost of living course will take place on 30th April in Victoria NS. Opportunities to take part in courses as part of the New Loda Schools Cluster:

Tuesday 30th April - **Manaaina Challenging Behaviour** (10-12 noon)

Tuesday 14th May - **Manaaina Emotions** (10-12 noon)

Tuesday 21st May - **Healthy Lifestyles** (10 - 11 a.m.)

These are designed for parents of children 3 – 5 years old and will take place in St Patricks Primary School.

To apply click on the link <https://forms.gle/y2q6U2idyQnqWFoq8> or talk to Orla McAllister.

Our Learning

ECO ACTIVITIES - MAY & JUNE

Mini-beasts in the environment i.e. in the garden, town and seaside.

We will investigate colour, pattern and markings on butterfly wings, ladybird spots and snail shells.

How it moves – will it crawl, slide or hop.

Physical attributes – legs, wings, shell, and antennae.

Where it lives – on a flower, in a bush or under the stones.

What it eats.

Follow up science – we will observe the life cycle of the butterfly - from caterpillar to butterfly.



OBSERVING

By watching carefully, we can see what our insects do. We will use our permanent magnifying post in the garden.

We can look at reference books to find out where they live.

Look out for a snail's trail, a spider's web and check for ladybirds in our bug hotel.



We will: -

Watch our caterpillars grow



Look at our seeds and plants growing

Continue to plant flowers / seeds in our outdoor garden.

We have ordered live caterpillars - we will watch them 'grow' into butterflies in our butterfly tent and we will release them on a warm day when they have emerged from their chrysalis.

Encourage positive attitudes towards mini-beasts in order to help your child to appreciate the wonders of the insect world. We have a 'bug hotel' in our Eco garden to encourage insects to visit and stay!

TOPIC: GROWTH

We will plant seeds and observe them to see how they change – from shoots to leaves and stems to flowers. Encourage your child to plant seeds at home – nasturtiums are colourful and simple to grow. Observe growth by comparing height. Small/tall. How tall? Taller than, shorter than, the same height. Children will take home the bean plants that they planted.



COLOUR THEMES

We will focus on various colours in our art and craft work and mix colours to make a new colour.

PETS

We will learn that some animals live at home with us e.g. cats, dogs, goldfish, and rabbits. We will invite the children to talk about pets at home, how they care for them, what kind of food do they eat? And where do they live?



BIG BEASTS – DINOSAURS

Through our small world play and use of model dinosaurs we will be learning about pre-historic life and 'The age of the Dinosaurs'. Characteristics of size, many shapes, tails, wings, teeth and skin and food preferences: Carnivores – meat eaters, Herbivores – vegetation, plants and leaves and Omnivores – meat / plant eaters. We will share ideas on how they became EXTINCT.

MATHEMATICAL EXPERIENCES

We will be consolidating counting and sorting for shape, colour and type e.g. those insects which can fly and those insects which cannot fly. We will also be making comparisons.

We will be naming morning, afternoon, evening and days of the week.

We have identified circle, square, triangle and rectangle, so please continue to look out for these shapes at home and also in our 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.

We will practice the following skills:

- Counting and sorting skills.
- Counting and matching and using one – to – one correspondence when laying the table.
- Looking at shape, size, texture and colour.
- Making repeating patterns, continuing patterns and devising our own patterns.



PRE-WRITING SKILLS

We will continue to take part in activities to support pre-writing skills. These will help strengthen your child's hand muscles and support them in how to hold and use a pencil properly. If writing out your child's name at home only use upper case for the 1st letter – lower case for all other letters. We will also be learning how to recognise the shape of our names.

REMEMEBER: KEEP SAFE IN THE SUN

Drink lots of water

Use a high factor sun block – APPLIED BEFORE SCHOOL DAILY

Wear a sunhat & cover up with a T-Shirt



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.

REMINDERS

SNACK MONEY

Thank you for paying snack/ school fund money each week. This is used to purchase daily fruit and snack food, new resources for learning for indoor and outdoor play, to subsidise trips, gifts for children and for events. This term our purchases include art materials, plants, outdoor activities and the farm visit.



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 at 9.55am. The bus will leave at 10am and arrive in Streamvale 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.
<https://streamvale.com/>

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.

ILLNESS

Thank you for keeping your child at home when they are unwell. We wish to remind parents that children should not return to school before they have fully recovered.

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 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 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 sun cream due to the possibility of allergies.

PREPARATION FOR PRIMARY ONE

Starting primary school is a very exciting step in a child's life. Please see below some simple and fun everyday activities to support your child so that they can start school healthy, happy, active, curious and sociable.



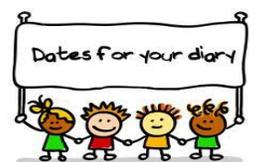
- *Encourage your child to become independent* with everyday tasks such a dressing, handwashing, blowing their nose, using a knife and fork and toileting.
- *Practice social skills with your child* e.g. sharing through simple games such as snakes and ladders, taking turns in conversations.
- *Help your child get ready for reading and writing.* Help them recognise their name. Read to your child to improve their vocabulary, listening skills and their understanding. Develop their motor skills - as this will help develop their hand strength and hand-eye co-ordination which are key to helping your children learn to write and draw. Also encourage the recognition of numbers at home and in the environment.



Our home learning section on our website contains various information to help prepare your child for P1 including support with fine motor skills, pencil grip and songs <https://www.victorianursery.org.uk/home-learning/?class=9>

Transition Reports

End of term reports will be given in mid-June to parents whose children are transferring to primary school. A copy will also be forwarded to your child's school. If you would like to talk to me regarding your child's progress please contact me to arrange a telephone appointment.



Parent Courses

Thank you to the 9 parents who are coming to our 4 week Cost of Living Course. The is very enjoyable and we are so privileged work with such wonderful families. The final week will take place on Tuesday 30th April and will include a special celebration and presentation of the £20 Lidl vouchers.

Other opportunities to take part in further courses as part of the New Lodge Schools Cluster:

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Tuesday 14th May - **Manaaina Emotions** (10-12 noon)

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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Thank you for your continued help and support.