

November News 2023



Please read about:

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

OUR LEARNING



Colour theme: - Brown

We will focus on **Brown**, basing some of our Art / Craft activities on **Brown**. To date we have been working on themes about our families and ourselves but now we are introducing a topic on our homes.

We will relate this to 'Where we live'.



Naming and labelling – windows, doors, roof, stairs, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen / living room.

Also associated furniture e.g. kitchen – table, cooker, fridge
Bedroom – bed, lamp, wardrobe.

We will discuss the role of people who build houses: -

Plumber – sinks, baths, toilets.

Electrician – wiring, sockets, switches, lights.

Joiner – wooden items – stairs, doors, windows

Tiler – roof.

We will be looking at shape and pattern and printing with a variety of materials including real bricks.

We will also relate homes to animals: - Farm – horses, cows, sheep and pigs.

Nature in the Environment - ECO

We will be discussing woodland homes for deer, owls, squirrels, foxes, hedgehogs and discussing in more detail 'hibernation'. We will discuss which animals / insects live in trees e.g. spiders, birds and squirrels. We will observe autumn in our nursery environment e.g. change in our plants / shrubs in the garden, change in the colour of leaves, effect of wind to expose the bare bark and observation of tree outline – trunk, branches and twigs.

Wooden Display

Please encourage your child to identify wooden items within your home e.g. windows, chairs, tables, clock, pencils etc.

Cooking Activity

We will bake a cake and make rice crispie buns.

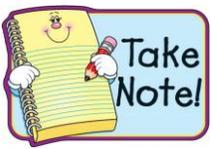


Development of Play

We will foster respect and helpfulness also kindness and thoughtfulness towards others. We will be encouraging good listening skills – listening carefully and selectively as this is important in acquiring and developing language. Please encourage selective listening to sounds at home and identify the source e.g. telephone ringing and door banging closed. We bring children on a 'listening walk' outdoors to help them identify outdoor sounds ...a van reversing, bells tolling, birds singing etc.

Music

We will introduce shakers and musical instruments – offering a wide scope in exploring sounds and basic actions e.g. tapping, plucking and shaking.



NOTICES



Our First Outing – Wednesday 22nd November

On Wednesday 22nd November 2023 the children will have their first outing. In the morning we will walk to St Patrick's Primary School to take part in a play session in one of their classrooms. Parents will be asked to sign a permission slip for this trip.

We will have a high child to adult ratio for this outing and parents are also welcome to come. We will leave school at approximately 9.40am and return at 11.30am.

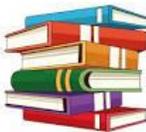


MUSIC SESSIONS Every Monday in November and December

The children will take part in special music sessions with musicians Heidi and Sammy every Monday. 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 last year and were so impressed with the children's listening skills and rhythm that they asked could they come back!

Monthly Library Visits from Central Library

Each month the children have a visit from Sian from Belfast Central Library who reads to them and sing songs.



OPEN DAY – Tuesday 5th December – 2pm until 2.30pm

Victoria Nursery will host an open afternoon for parents and children who are going to Nursery School in September 2024. Please encourage your friends to come along to see the nursery and they can find out more information on our website

<https://www.victorianursery.org.uk/parents/admissions-and-induction/>

Health Visitor 3 year review – January 2024

The school health visitor will visit the school to meet with parents individually. Over the coming weeks you will receive a time for your appointment with the Health Visitor questionnaire form for you to complete.

HOME LEARNING - The Getting Ready to Learn – Big Bedtime Read.

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 week 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**; this will give you ample time to share the books over the week. Each bag will contain 5 books and a plastic folder with photographs of the books to help you to collate them for their return to school and the bags will also contain a play activity.



We would very much appreciate careful handling of the bookshowever, we realise that our children are very young and accidents do happen! Please do not let the likelihood of damage to books deter you from full enjoyment of this educational resource. Any damage or loss should be reported to staff and we will replace or repair the book or activity.

Clothing

Please ensure all items of your child's clothing are labelled with his / her name as we can experience some mix ups. Please ensure your child has an appropriate WARM coat for this term. Please help us to encourage the skills of independence e.g. collecting their coat from the peg, putting on / taking off coat also manipulative skills e.g. buttoning, zipping etc. Do encourage your child to practice these skills at home.



Dinner / Snack Money

Many thanks for the prompt payment of dinner/snack money on Monday in the envelopes provided. We are unable to supply change so this will be deducted from the amount due the following week. Dinner/Snack Money will be collect by Ms Bradley in the veranda on Monday mornings.



Dinner Routines

During lunch time children are served a main meal and a desert. They are seated at the dinner table for approximately 30 minutes. They pour their own drink and use a knife, fork and spoon to eat their food. In order to help them please can you **encourage your child to sit for longer periods at the dinner table** at home and **encourage the use of cutlery**.

Hand wash /Tissues/ Baby wipes

Thank you supplying us with a box of tissues, hand wash and baby wipes each term as it helps us respond to coughs, colds and sneezes. Already we have used the hand washes provided by the parents over the past 2 months!! This is encouraging as it shows how much handwashing we are doing!!

Pigeon Holes

Your child has been allocated with a pigeon hole in our unit in the veranda. This is where we place your child's work to be taken home and admired and also important school information notices. Please check it daily in the morning.

Your child's snack/dinner money envelope will be placed in the pigeon hole on Friday, please return it on Monday morning and place in the yellow box on top of the pigeon hole stand.

Parent Communication

If you want to discuss anything regarding your child please speak to us – every morning Mrs McAllister or another staff member will greet each family. If you want to discuss anything in detail regarding your child 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 as we are with the children and we may be unable to answer the phone.



Illness

Thank you for keeping your child at home when they are unwell. When children are well in school they thrive and have a successful day. It is everyone's responsibility in our school community to protect our children, staff and families.

Unfortunately there is often an increase in respiratory viruses' and vomiting and diarrhoea bugs this term. We wish to remind parents that children should not return to school before they have fully recovered.

If your child has COVID symptoms your child should NOT come to school. Please follow PHA guidelines.

In the case of vomiting and diarrhoea – only when full sleeping and eating patterns have been re-established and your child is in good form. In the case of any vomiting and diarrhoea – 48 hours must have elapsed AFTER the last episode of diarrhoea before any child may safely return to school. For example, if your child had diarrhoea on Tuesday evening they should not return to school until Friday morning.

Arrival/ Collection of Children

Reminders -

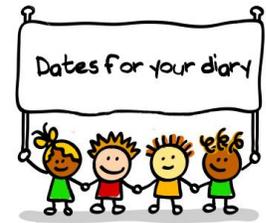
1. Staggered start from 9am (at the earliest) to 9.30am.
2. On arrival stand at the red cones 2m apart. Hold your child's hand. ONLY ONE family should be in the covered veranda area at a time.
3. Help your child to hang up their coat and to wash their hands at the sink (only family should be at the sink at a time).
4. Collection - Please come into the school grounds and your child will be called to go to you in an organised manner. Please collect your child on time. When your child is in a full day staggered pick up is between 1.15pm – 1.30pm. There is no supervision available after 1.30pm.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Reminder of Christmas Closure

Tuesday 19th December will be the last day of school before the Christmas Holidays. School will finish at 11.30am. School will recommence on Friday 5th January 2023 at 9am.

Our families are very generous all year round and especially at Christmas. We kindly ask families not to purchase Christmas gifts for staff.



NURSERY ENROLEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

The application process will be available on the Education Authority Website in January 2024. **Online applications will open on 9th January 2024 at 12 noon and will close at 12 noon on the 26th January 2024.**

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

The name of our nursery appears as **Victoria NS (Belfast)** and its address is Victoria Parade, Belfast.

Children should be aged 3 on or before the 1st July 2021, i.e. born between 2nd July 2020 and 1st July 2021. However, from time to time we have some vacancies for underage children/ summer birthday children – an application form for these age groups must be submitted.

YEAR 1 ENROLEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

The application process will be available on the Education Authority Website - [eani.org.uk/parents/admissions](https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions) in January 2024. Children should be aged 4 on or before the 1st July 2021.