

December News

2023



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- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19th December This will be the last day of school before the Christmas Holidays- **School will finish at 11.30am. Staggered pick up is from 11.15am.** School will reopen on Friday 5th January 2024 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.**

School Contact Details – **phone:** 02890744247 **email:** info@victorians.belfast.ni.sch.uk.
website: victorianursery.org.uk

Our Learning



COLOUR THEME: -RED

We will focus on **red**, basing some of our art/craft activities on **red**. Please encourage your child to discuss **red** items at home.

POST OFFICE

We will discuss the role of the postman / post woman, their uniform and their job. We will be exploring mathematics through:

Weight – heavy / light, Shape – wrapping presents. Methods of fastening- string, sellotape, ribbon. Pattern of wrapping paper – noting the repeat pattern. We will also print our own wrapping paper! We will be using language associated with transactions at the Post Office. Writing cards, buying stamps and posting letters. You may like to provide your child with an opportunity to write a letter to Santa or Christmas cards and post them.

COOKING ACTIVITIES

We will decorate a Christmas biscuit.

We will make Christmas Pudding Dough to play with at the dough table.



ECO FOCUS

We will be observing bare trees and the silhouette of the trunk, branches and twigs. We will continue to look at the bulbs planted during autumn and discuss change.

NATURE - We will be observing 'evergreen' trees in winter - Ivy, Holly and Fir trees.

Children will have opportunities for direct sensory experiences i.e. looking, touching and smelling the evergreens. Please note: - take care to remind your child to never eat berries i.e. holly, as they are extremely poisonous.

We will have a Christmas tree in nursery and also a small tree for the home corner in the play room for children to decorate daily.

Bird Feeding- we have commenced our bird feeding programme. Children enjoy putting out fat balls, seeds, bread, crusts and biscuits for the birds. We are hoping for some visitors in our nest boxes in springtime.

Christmas Events

Parent and Child Art Session

From Friday 8th December – Wednesday 13th December parent can sign up for a suitable morning slot to make winter snow globes with your child.



MUSIC SESSIONS Every Monday in 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!





Christmas Library Visit from Central Library

The children will have a visit from Sian from Belfast Central Library who reads to them and sing songs.

Health Visitor 3 year review

The school health visitor will visit the school in January 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.

Christmas Elf Visit

On Wednesday 6th December the children will enjoy a visual story and interactive activity with a Christmas Elf called 'Captain Clean up Saves Christmas'. This is part of Belfast City Council community awareness anti-litter campaign.

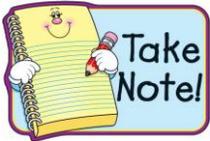


Christmas Dinner

On Thursday 14th December the children will be served Christmas dinner in school.

Santa Visit

The children will have a visit from Santa and receive special gifts to take home!



REMINDERS



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/>

AT HOME

Please encourage your child's independence with toileting, feeding and dressing.

Our **High 5 positive behaviour programme** focusing on Play, Praise, Commands, Rewards and Consequences is on our website. We will have a particular focus on this after Christmas. 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.

HOME LEARNING

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.



BIN THE BOTTLE / DUMP THE DUMMY

Now that Christmas time is near we are using this opportunity to help children give up dummies and bottles. The children can put their dummies and bottles in our special display and these will then be sent off to Santa at the North Pole. Please support this initiative if your child still uses a dummy or bottle. All children will be encouraged and praised for their contribution.

PIGEON HOLE

Please ensure that you check your child's pigeon hole each morning as you may miss important notices and your child's creative work.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Some of our policies are available on our website:
<https://www.victorianursery.org.uk/parents/policies/>

DINNER/ SNACK MONEY

We would appeal to parents to maintain payment of Dinner/Snack money on Monday mornings. The envelope is in your child's box on a Friday morning. Spare plain envelopes are available in the veranda for you to write your child's name on and the amount.



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. 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.

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.



HAND WASH/ TISSUES/ BABY WIPES OR ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES

In January please can you provide a box of tissues, hand wash and baby wipes for use next term. We will collect these items on the 1st day of the new term Friday 5th January 2024.

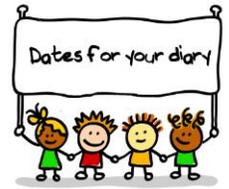


IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Reminder of Christmas Closure



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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.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued help and support and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

