

FEBRUARY 2024

NEWS



Please read about:

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

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

FEBRUARY MID TERM BREAK : School will be closed for children for 1 week – from Monday 12th February until Friday 16th February and re-open on Monday 19th February.

Our Learning

PEOPLE WHO HELP US

We will focus on people who help us including 'emergency services' e.g. fire fighters, ambulance crew and police officers during February. We will discuss awareness of our environment in which we live and identify those people who help keep it clean and tidy i.e. refuse collectors and street sweepers. We will make good use of the high visibility jackets and litter pickers donated by Belfast City Council some time ago.

FIRE SERVICE VISIT

The children will have a special visit from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. They will get to chat to the fire fighters and visit the fire engine.



LIBRARY VISIT – 27th February

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.

COLOUR THEMES: -GREY / SILVER/ RED

We will focus on Grey, Silver and Red, basing some of our art/craft activities on these colours. Please encourage your child to discuss these colours at home.

MATHEMATICAL EXPERIENCES

Our shape for the month is a triangle and we will provide a comprehensive range of activities and support materials to enable exploration of this shape. At home please look for this shape and encourage your child to recognise and name it.

THE FIVE SENSES

We will be developing our sensory awareness during this month by providing activities, which explore touch, smell, sight, sound and taste.

Touch - We will explore various textures and observe, compare, experiment and practise descriptive and expressive skills.

Smell - Children will be encouraged to observe, compare and develop descriptive language skills as they begin to describe scented items.

Sight - We will explore with mirrors to learn about reflections and mirror images.

Sound - We will use listening and talking skills to re-create sounds in our environment i.e. water running, birds singing etc.

Taste - During this activity our children will explore the 4 major tastes that the tongue can sense – bitter, sweet, sour and salty.

During the above activity areas children will identify, compare and classify items as they investigate the world around them.

ECO NEWS

TOPIC: - WEATHER

As a follow up to our winter topic we will observe and discuss the weather each day. We will describe the sounds of weather e.g. rain – drizzling, dripping, wind – howling.

We will be looking at the different clothes we wear in the rain – boots, raincoats, rain hats and umbrellas. We will develop an awareness of how vital water is for plants, animals and ourselves.



SCIENCE

Science will be incorporated in our curriculum through the use of water for growth of bulbs, change in sand when water is added and also floating / sinking and absorption.

NATURE



During February we will be observing our garden for signs of growth and development of our bulbs that we planted in autumn time. We will also look at developing leaf buds on our Cherry tree.

We will plant seeds and make planters for our school and the alleyway outside. We shall continue to feed the birds and identify different types in our environment.

PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE

During the month of February your child will continue to gain independence in personal needs e.g. putting on their coat for outdoor play, setting out the lunchtime cutlery. We will also continue to encourage respect of their and other children's work.

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/>

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

BEHAVIOUR TOP TIPS –

On the back of the newsletter there are some top tips for home to encourage positive behaviour. Positive reinforcement, clear guidelines, consistency and routines are all key ways to promote positive behaviour at home.

REMINDERS



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 weekend. 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 an additional activity.



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.

SNACK MONEY

Thank you for paying snack/ school fund money each week. This is used to purchase daily fruit and snack food, resources for learning, to subsidise our summer trip, gifts for children and for events. This term our purchases include art materials, playmobile sets, bird feeders, plants, cookery items and books.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER

Have you or the person to contact in an emergency, changed address or phone number? If so please let us know immediately in case of an emergency. If you are unsure of the numbers you have given us, please feel free to check these out with us.

PIGEON HOLE

Please check your child's 'Pigeon Hole' each morning of art work and important notices.

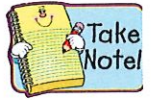


CLOTHING

We would ask you to ensure that a change of clothes is available in your child's bag in the children's bathroom. To avoid mix-ups of coats, hats etc **please label** all items of clothing.

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.



FEBRUARY MID TERM BREAK

School will be closed for children for 1 week – from Monday 12th February until Friday 16th February and re-open on Monday 19th February.

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.

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.

Reminders –

1. Staggered start from 9am to 9.30am.
2. Queue with your child and hold their hand and do not let them play on equipment in the playground.
3. One family should be in the covered veranda area at a time.
4. 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).
5. Please collect your child on time. Staggered pick up is between 1.15pm – 1.30pm.

There is no supervision available after 1.30pm.

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.

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



Managing child behaviour top tips

One of the biggest challenges parents face is managing difficult behaviour. Most children and young people can be disruptive at times when they behave in a challenging way. It helps to have options that can be used to help manage their behaviour.

Ages and stages

Be sure that you know what your child is capable of doing depending on his or her age and stage of development. Sometimes we think a child is misbehaving but the behaviour can be quite natural for the developmental stage they are at. Knowing this helps you look at behaviour management more objectively and less reactively.

Clear guidelines

Be clear about the rules you have set around acceptable behaviour. With younger children give one very clear statement rather than a lot of rules together works best. With younger children give clear direction rather than a lot of rules together works best.

Positive reinforcement and praise

Try to avoid being critical and use praise whenever possible. This will encourage children to continue behaving in an acceptable manner. Reinforcement should be focused on promoting a child's self-esteem and feelings of accomplishment and cooperation. Children can be rewarded through Star Charts, playing a game, going to the park, or simply give verbal praise and appreciation.



Managing child behaviour top tips

Consequences and Consistency

If rules and guidelines are not followed by your child then consequences will need to be given. These must be realistic, fit with child's age and stage of development and teach a lesson. Most importantly they must be consistently enforced. Start with small, time-limited consequences, and then slowly increase the time or intensity of the consequence for repeating the same behaviour.

Choose your battles

Try to ignore trivial things and focus on the important things. Remember that you are a role model to your child and so you should aim to model the behaviours you expect to see from them.

Spend time together

It's important that you spend time with your child, listen to them and have fun together. Building your relationship with your child will make them feel loved, valued and understood by you and therefore will make it easier to encourage positive behaviour.



Proudly sponsored by

George Best
BELFAST
CITY AIRPORT

parentingni.org

