



Victoria
Nursery School

MARCH 2024 NEWS



Please read about:

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

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

St Patricks Day : School will be closed for children on the 18th March and will reopen on Tuesday 19th March

14th and 21st March 2024 - Parent Teacher Meetings

Easter holidays – the school will be closed from Thursday 28th March – Friday 5th April 2024.

Our Learning

COLOUR THEME: GREEN

We will focus on GREEN, basing some of our art and craft activities on GREEN. Please encourage your child to discuss GREEN at home and allow them to contribute a GREEN item to our colour display.

TOPICS

Spring: Observe the changes from winter – spring.

Look for new growth – buds, shoots, flowers.

Spring flowers – crocus, daffodils, flowering currant, forsythia, pussy willows, catkins.

Use of senses – to smell and touch.

Longer days / shorter evenings

We will also discuss & observe life cycles: Hen-egg....chick Frogs: frogspawn....tadpoles



Sammy the Squirrel Visit – 5th March

The children will be visited by Sammy Squirrel (Belfast City Council) to talk about spring and how to take care of our local environment.

Book Trust – Author Visit 13th March

We are delighted to have the author Rashmi Sirdeshpande visiting our school on Wednesday 13th March. The session will be about her book 'Never Let a Diplodocus Draw' and every child will receive a free copy of the book.

LIBRARY VISIT – 26th March

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.

Healthy Eating: We will recognise the importance of keeping healthy through setting up a shop selling groceries and fruit & vegetables. We will display real and artificial products. We will discuss the individual distinctive features of each item and encourage children to interact with each other by taking turns to be shopkeeper and customers. They will discuss their choices, likes and dislikes and how much each item costs.

We will read stories connected with spring and healthy eating and sing songs / rhymes appropriate to our topics.

We will provide notepads and pencils and discuss shopping lists. We will invite children to explain what they would like to include on their list. Staff will write their words e.g. carrots, potatoes. This helps your child understand that words convey meaning. You can help by encouraging your child to make your 'shopping list' at

home by providing a notepad / paper and pencil. You could encourage your child to help put away fruit and vegetables and groceries after shopping trips and discuss shape, colour, size, weight and number of items purchased.



CARE OF TEETH

We will talk about care of teeth and discuss healthy and unhealthy food, which affects our teeth. To take care of our teeth we talk about the importance of visiting the dentist regularly.

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

COOKING ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

Green biscuits, Fresh Fruit Salad and we will chop green fruit and vegetables.



MATHEMATICS

Our shape for the month is a square and we will provide a comprehensive range of activities and support materials to enable exploration of this shape. Please encourage your child to find square shapes at home and in the environment.



HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME INDEPENDENT

- Please encourage and help your child to put on / fasten or zip up their own coat.
- Children are now recognising their own name so please discuss their own name. Look at the shape of the letters and make the sound of the initial letter i.e. **D** for Daniel.
- Please encourage your child to set the table for dinner i.e. placemat, knife / fork / spoon in the correct position etc.

REMINDERS



14th and 21st March 2024 - Parent Teacher Meetings

Meetings will take place on Thursday 14th and 21st of March in person in the school office.

Each informal meeting lasts approximately 10 mins and is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and for you to discuss any queries or concerns. A sheet will be displayed in the veranda for you to choose a suitable time slot for your meeting.

HOME LEARNING

Home Learning Packs - Before Easter each child will be given a home learning bag packed with activities for you and your child to enjoy over the coming months. They will include scissors, dough, pens, books etc and advice to promote your child's 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 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.

CLOTHING

Please provide a complete change of clothing for your child in case of a toileting or water tray accident. Please label all clothes and coats clearly with your child's name.

SNACK / DINNER MONEY

We would appreciate prompt payment of snack / dinner money on a Monday mornings. Envelopes are distributed on Friday to enable all parents to have the **CORRECT** amount ready for Monday morning.

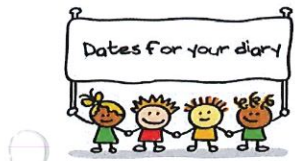
ILLNESS

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.

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.



18th March School Closure- School will be closed Monday 18th March for St. Patrick's Day and will re-open on Tuesday 19th March at the usual time.
Easter holidays – the school will be closed from Thursday 28th March – Friday 5th April 2024.



Other upcoming school holidays can be found on our website <https://www.victorianursery.org.uk/parents/holiday-list/>

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.

Stepping up and stepping out project for women – Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th March – contact Ashton centre 90742255

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



From the Oral Health Improvement Team

Here are some of our TOP TIPS for keeping your teeth clean and healthy:



Brush your teeth for **2** minutes



Brush your teeth **2** times per day - last thing and night and in the morning



Use the right amount of toothpaste - you only need the size of a green pea



Smear for under 3 years of age



Pea-sized blob for over 3 years of age



Brush front and back teeth in **CIRCLES** - draw a circle on every tooth with your toothbrush



Replace your toothbrush every 3 months



Spit out all your toothpaste into the sink but **DO NOT** rinse your mouth with water



Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

