

# October News 2023



**Please read about:**

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

**Halloween break** – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November inclusive

**Christmas Closure** – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 inclusive

**School Contact Details** – **phone:** 02890744247 **email:** [info@victorians.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@victorians.belfast.ni.sch.uk) **website:** [victoriannursery.org.uk](http://victoriannursery.org.uk)

## **THANK YOU**

We have completed our first month together and are all getting to know each other. Your patience and support over the past few weeks of settling in have been greatly appreciated. We have enjoyed meeting and getting to know our new pupils and are excited about our learning journey together over the next year. Thank you for your continued help and support.

I would draw your attention to our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy which is on our school website - <https://victoriannursery.org.uk/parents/policies/> Please do not hesitate to ask for further information if you have a query or concern.

## **MEET THE STAFF**

You see Ms. Stewart, Ms. Bradley, Ms. Kelly and myself Mrs McAllister each day. Our Dining Attendant, Mrs Coates serves our tasty school meals. Mrs Benson keeps our administrative duties in order and she works on Wednesdays. Our building supervisor Mrs Corr keeps the school and grounds clean and tidy. We have SEN staff and a number of students attending on placements from schools and colleges.

## **OUR LEARNING**

### **AUTUMN**



### **WORLD AROUND US**

We will be observing the change in tree colour and identifying leaf shapes and fruits. For example : Horse chestnut –conkers, Oak -oak apples, Sycamore -sycamore fruits, Hazel – nuts. We look at Autumn leaves by sorting them into autumn colours, also in counting, shape, putting in order and matching.

We will talk about squirrels and their home – a ‘drey’, looking at their habitat where they live and their personal habits in collecting and storing nuts. We will be discussing migrating birds and observe collections of birds preparing to migrate to a warmer climate i.e. swallows.

We will focus on Harvest Time and the role of the farmer harvesting the grain for winter food e.g. corn, barley, oats, hay, straw and grass. We will discuss grain used in cereals for breakfast and set up a display e.g. porridge, oats, cornflakes, bran flakes etc. During October we will be planting bulbs in preparation for spring growth.

Outdoors – snowdrops, daffodils, tulips and crocus

Indoors – Hyacinths set in water and compost.

During October we will discuss our likes / dislikes of a variety of apples / blackberries and oranges – noticing the differences in colour and taste.

### **Cooking Activities**

We will make and taste: orange jelly and Halloween biscuits.

**Colour:** Orange -We will focus on orange, basing some of our art/craft activities on the colour orange. Please encourage your child to discuss the colour orange at home.

## **REMINDERS**



### **Dinner Routines**

During lunch time children are served a main meal and a desert. Our dinner menu is displayed in the veranda and on our school website. Children 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**.

### **Uniform**

In autumn, outdoor play is a vital component in complementing our curriculum so please ensure your child has **their own labelled coat**. Safe shoes should be worn with flat soles and velcro straps. Children require shoes with a good grip for our soft surface and on the rungs of the ladders e.g. Velcro trainers. For Health and Safety reasons earrings must be studs only and no necklaces should be worn.

Please ensure that all coats are hung on the correct peg and the sleeves pulled out so your child can put on their coat independently. Please teach your child to put on and take off their coat.

### **Avoid mix-ups**

It is helpful if sweatshirts and coats are labelled with your child's name, also their spare clothes in the children's bathroom. If sweatshirts are not labelled they will be placed in the veranda for parents to sort themselves.

### **Independence/ Toileting**

We have 26 children in the class and our day is very busy. We are establishing firm routines in the classroom. Please ensure your child is able to toilet independently (pull down joggers etc and sit on the toilet, encourage them to flush the toilet and wash their hands).

### **Spare set of clothes**

If you have not provided the nursery with a spare set of clothes which includes socks, underwear, track bottoms and a suitable jumper/hoodie please do so as we have a very limited supply of spare clothing to cover any 'accidents' at the water tray or toileting.

## Contact records

It is vital that all 'Contact Records' are kept up to date. In the event of an emergency, we may need to contact you or your nominated contact person urgently. Please inform us of changes to numbers or addresses.

## Correct dinner and snack money

Thank you to our parents for their prompt payment of Dinner and Snack/ School fund money on Monday mornings. This helps us to operate more efficiently, an envelope is provided for your convenience; please try to ensure that the **correct amount** of money is returned in the labelled envelope.

Snack/ School fund money is £5 per week. A money envelope will be placed in your child's pigeon hole each Friday. Please place the exact amount of money in the envelope and seal it and bring it to school on **Mondays** and place it in the yellow box.

## Dinner Money

If your child is not in receipt of free school meals or you are not on the EAs list supplied to schools the cost is £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week) (this will be written on the money envelope placed in the pigeon hole). School meals commenced Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September for the 1<sup>st</sup> cohort of children.

## 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/>.

Starting in Mid October every second 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.



## 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.

## Tooth Brushing

Children will be provided with a tooth brush and tooth paste for use at home before Christmas. Please encourage your child to brush their teeth twice daily.

## 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.

## 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 in detail regarding your child please phone between 8.30am and 9am (02890744247) or contact the school via email [info@victorians.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto: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.

Important school notices will be contained in the monthly newsletter, texted to you and will be displayed on the notice board in our veranda area.

## Illness

Thank you for keeping your child at home when they are unwell. 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.

It is everyone's responsibility in our school community to protect our children, staff and families.

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. **NOTE:** Due to health and safety on school grounds **the main school gates will not open until 9am.**
3. On arrival stand on the red cones. Hold your child's hand. **ONLY ONE family should be in the covered veranda area at a time.**
4. **Please do not** allow your child to play with or on equipment in the school grounds. These will be used for outdoor play later in the day.

5. Please do not bring school bags or toys to school.
6. 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).
7. 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.

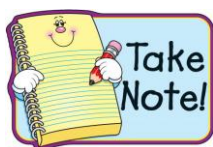
### **Our Golden Rules**

We are encouraging friendship and co-operation within our nursery setting. Our few rules are to be encouraged.

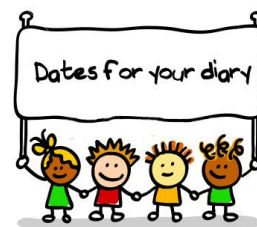
- \* Please and thank you are important words.
- \* We use walking feet.
- \* We use listening ears.
- \* We use gentle hands and feet
- \* We talk to each other.
- \* We share and take turns.
- \* We are all friends.



All these little reminders help ensure our nursery operates smoothly and effectively and we aim is to develop an open and honest partnership with parents / carers. We endeavour to ensure that your child's time with us is happy, positive, stimulating, challenging and rewarding. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs McAllister.



### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**



#### **Settling in Parent Meetings**

Settling in Meetings will take place on Thursdays in October. A time will be given to you. Each informal meeting lasts approximately 15 mins and is an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled.

#### **HALF TERM BREAK - HALLOWEEN**

On **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October** Nursery will finish at the usual time for your child. **Children will wear their school uniform.** Over the coming weeks the children will take part in special Halloween play, art and cooking activities.

The school will be closed for our midterm break week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> October and reopens on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** at 9am.

**Reminder of Christmas Closure Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** will be the last day of school before the Christmas Holidays – children will finish school at 11.30am. The school will recommence on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.