

JANUARY 2024

NEWS



Please read about:

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

School Contact Details – **phone:** 02890744247 **email:** info@victorians.belfast.ni.sch.uk
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Our Learning

COLOUR THEME: BLACK AND WHITE

We will focus on Black and White, basing some of our art/craft activities on Black and White. Please encourage your child to discuss black and white items at home.

TOPIC: WINTER and BEARS

We will be talking about the different types...polar, panda, brown and koala bears. We will discuss the habitat where they live, their eating habits and characteristics – fur, size, weight and claws. We will freeze water and observe ice formations and crystals.



We are encouraging children to bring a Teddy Bear for our 'Bear Theme Day' on Wednesday 24th January. The child's 'bear' or soft toy will be returned the same day.

DAY / NIGHT

We will be discussing darkness and light. The need for light to help us see. People who work at night: doctors, nurses, emergency services, delivery drivers etc.

Scientific experiences will be explored through use of torches to make shadows, reflections and light beams. We will use a light box in the classroom.



MATHEMATICAL EXPERIENCES

These will be related to our topics. Using relevant play materials there will be opportunities to count, match, order, compare and sequence.

We will be dressing dolls and bears using a variety of fasteners – zips, buttons, Velcro poppers and laces. **Do encourage your child to dress / undress also put on / off their own coat in order to practice these skills.**

We will discuss how we keep ourselves warm in winter and reinforce this with a display 'Clothes we wear in winter'. This will be connected to body parts i.e. we wear gloves...on our hands, we wear a hat...on our head and we wear a scarf...on our neck - warm – warmer – warmest – related to clothing. We will discuss size relationships – big, bigger, biggest and small, smaller, smallest and set up the home corner as the 3 bears house to reinforce these mathematical concepts.



COOKING ACTIVITIES

We will make snow scene biscuits using white icing and decorative sprinkles.

We will also be chopping a selection of vegetables such as mushrooms, carrots, cabbage,

parsnips, cauliflowers and potato. We will make and taste porridge on the Teddy Bears' theme day.

DEVELOPMENT OF PLAY

We are encouraging concentration in play, persistence and perseverance with chosen activities i.e. puzzles. We aim to encourage exploration in our planned activities.

You can help at home through helping at daily chores by observing, questioning and experimenting together whilst engaging in activities i.e. washing dishes, cooking activities etc. Encourage Questions e.g. Looking carefully...what can you see? What is that for...? How does it work...? What happens if...?

SONGS / RHYMES / STORIES

Our songs/rhymes/stories continue to be related to our themes. Please check our home learning section on our website for links to songs and rhymes and other learning.

ECO NEWS SECTION

NATURE

During January we will be discussing nocturnal animals – badgers, owls, bats. We will be talking about 'Animals in winter', exploring the ways in which different animals adapt to wintry conditions. We will observe wintry weather – frost patterns within our nursery grounds.

We will discuss care of animals during winter and the importance of feeding birds during cold weather. We will observe and identify different breeds i.e. robin, thrush, blackbird, pigeon and name features – beak, tail, feathers and wings.

We will also discuss and collect ingredients to make a 'bird' cake which will provide food for our garden birds in winter. We will continue to feed the birds each day at our bird table and tree hanging feeders in the garden, so please encourage your child to do so in your garden.

We will observe the daffodil bulbs we planted during autumn.



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.



REMINDERS



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.

Over the last few years our pupils have transferred to various schools including St Patricks PS, Holy Family PS, Cliftonville PS, Sacred Heart PS, Mercy PS, Our Lady of Lourdes PS (Park Lodge), St Therese of Lisieux PS, Cavehill PS, Holy Cross PS, St Michaels PS and St Brides PS.

HAND WASH/ TISSUES/ BABY WIPES OR ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES

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



SCHOOL CHANGING BAGS

Please make sure you have a change of clothing in your child's bag which hangs on his / her hook in the children's bathroom. Do label your child's sweatshirt/ own coat clearly please.

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.



DINNER/ SNACK MONEY

We would ask 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.

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. On arrival stand on hold your child's hand and do not let them play on equipment in the playground.

2. 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).
3. 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 24th January- children bring 'Teddy Bear' or soft toy

February Mid-Term Holiday

School will be closed for children for 1 week – from Monday 12th February until Friday 16th February.



