

# October News 2021



**Please read about:**

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

**Halloween break** – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October inclusive  
**Christmas Closure** – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 inclusive

**School Contact Details** – **phone:** 02890744247 **email:** [info@victorians.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@victorians.belfast.ni.sch.uk) **website:** [victorianursery.org.uk](http://victorianursery.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://victorianursery.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 Mrs Mulholland, Ms. Bradley and myself Mrs McAllister each day. Mrs Lowry teaches the class every Thursday whilst Mrs McAllister attends to Principal duties. Our Dining Attendant, Mrs Coates serves our tasty school meals and ensures they distributed promptly at 12 noon. Mrs Benson keeps our administrative duties in order and works on Wednesdays. Our building supervisor Mr Fegan keeps the school and grounds clean and tidy. We have 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. We encourage children to taste but respect their wishes if they refuse. If your child is allergic to any foods, please inform staff immediately.

## **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.

## **Cooking Activities**

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

## **REMINDERS**



## **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 trainers. For Health and Safety reasons earrings must be studs only.

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.

## **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 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.

## **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. Already we have used most of the hand washes provided by the parents over the past 6 weeks!! This is encouraging as it shows how much handwashing we are doing!!

## 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.

## Parent Communication

If you want to discuss anything regarding your child please speak to us. Brief communication should be discussed on arrival at a 2 metre distance from staff.

If you want to discuss anything in detail regarding your child please phone between 8.30am and 9am 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.

## 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.

If your child has COVID symptoms your child should not come to school. Please follow PHA guidelines which encourage children to get a PCR test.

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. On arrival stand on the red cones 2m apart. Hold your child's hand. **ONLY ONE family should be in the covered veranda area at a time.**
3. 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).
4. When you are leaving after arrival or pick up walk please around the slide and down the side of the tunnel to avoid congestion.
5. 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 1.15p, – 1.25pm. There is no supervision available after 1.30pm.

Thank you

## **Our Golden Rules**

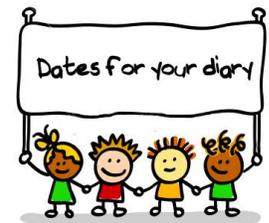
We are encouraging friendship and co-operation within our nursery setting. Our few rules are to be encouraged.

- \* Please and thank you are important words.
- \* We use walking feet.
- \* We use 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, however our overall 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, challenging and rewarding. So if you have any worries / concerns or queries, please contact Mrs McAllister. All information will be treated in total confidence.

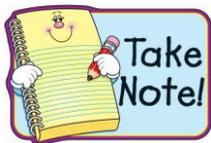
## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**



## **Settling in Parent Meetings**

Settling in Meetings will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November. A sign up sheet will be placed in the veranda for you to choose a suitable time. The sign up sheet will be display week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> November and you will be notified. These meetings can take place in person or by telephone, whichever is preferred by the individual parent.

Each informal meeting lasts approximately 10 mins and is an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled and for you to discuss any queries or concerns.



## **HALF TERM BREAK - HALLOWEEN**

On **Friday 22<sup>nd</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 25<sup>th</sup> October and reopens on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November** at 9am.

## **Reminder of Christmas Closure.**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** will be the last day of school before the Christmas Holidays and the school will recommence on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 9am.