

# December News

## 2021



**Please read about:**

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

**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)

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** This will be the last day of school before the Christmas Holidays. No dinners will be served that day and **school will finish at 11.45am. Staggered pick up is from 11.30am – 11.45am.** School will reopen on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 9am.



## Our Learning

### **COLOUR THEME: -RED**

We will focus on **red**, basing some of our art/craft activities on **red**. Please encourage your child to discuss **red** items at home.

### **POST OFFICE**

We will discuss the role of the postman / post woman, their uniform and their job. We will be exploring mathematics through:

Weight – heavy / light, Shape – wrapping presents. Methods of fastening- string, sellotape, ribbon. Pattern of wrapping paper – noting the repeat pattern. We will also print our own wrapping paper! We will be using language associated with transactions at the Post Office. Writing cards, buying stamps and posting letters. You may like to provide your child with an opportunity to write a letter to Santa or Christmas cards and post them.

### **COOKING ACTIVITIES**

We will decorate a Christmas biscuit.

We will make Christmas Pudding Dough to play with at the dough table.

### **ECO FOCUS**

We will be observing bare trees and the silhouette of the trunk, branches and twigs. We will continue to look at the bulbs planted during autumn and discuss change.

**NATURE** - We will be observing 'evergreen' trees in winter - Ivy, Holly and Fir trees.

Children will have opportunities for direct sensory experiences i.e. looking, touching and smelling the evergreens. Please note: - take care to remind your child to never eat berries i.e. holly, as they are extremely poisonous.

We will have a Christmas tree in nursery and also a small tree for the home corner in the play room for children to decorate daily.

Bird Feeding- we have commenced our bird feeding programme. Children enjoy putting out fat balls, seeds, bread, crusts and biscuits for the birds. We are hoping for some visitors in our nest boxes in springtime.

### **Christmas Events**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December the children will take part in the Daily Mile Santa run in the school grounds.

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December the children will enjoy a visual story and interactive activity with a Christmas Elf called 'Captain Clean up Saves Christmas'. This is part of Belfast City Council community awareness anti-litter campaign.

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December the children will be served Christmas dinner in school.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December we will have a Elfie day in aid of Action Mental Health. Children will take part in elf craft activities and proceeds from snack money that week will be donated to Action Mental Health.

Virtual Santa Visit – The children will have a visit from Santa and receive special gifts to take home.



## **REMINDERS**



### **AT HOME**

Please encourage your child's independence with toileting, feeding and dressing. Our **High 5 positive behaviour programme** focusing on Play, Praise, Commands, Rewards and Consequences is on our website. We will have a particular focus on this after Christmas. 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.

### **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 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 Wednesday 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.



### **POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

The school's Board of Governors have asked me to draw your attention to some of our policies on our website: <https://www.victorianursery.org.uk/parents/policies/>



### **BIN THE BOTTLE / DUMP THE DUMMY**

Now that Christmas time is near we are using this opportunity to help children give up dummies and bottles. The children have decorated a box for dummies and bottles which will then be sent off to Santa at the North Pole. Please support this initiative if your child still uses a dummy or bottle. All children will be encouraged and praised for their contribution.

### **PIGEON HOLE**

Please ensure that you check your child's pigeon hole each morning as you may miss important notices and your child's creative work.

### **HAND WASH/ TISSUES/ BABY WIPES OR ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES**

In January please can you provide a box of tissues, hand wash and antibacterial wipes for use next term. We will collect these items on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the new term Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



### **DINNER/ SNACK MONEY**

We would appeal 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.

## **COVID -19 SCHOOL INFORMATION**

### **ARRIVAL/ COLLECTION OF CHILDREN**

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.

**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.

Reminders –

1. Face coverings should be worn by all adults entering our school grounds.
2. Staggered start from 9am **(at the earliest)** to 9.30am.
3. On arrival stand on the red cones 2m apart. Hold your child's hand and do not let them play on equipment in the playground.
4. ONLY ONE family should be in the covered veranda area at a time.
5. 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).
6. When you are leaving after arrival or pick up walk please around the slide and down the side of the tunnel to avoid congestion.
7. Please collect your child on time. When your child is in a full day staggered pick up is between 1.15pm – 1.25pm. There is no supervision available after 1.30pm.

### **OTHER SCHOOL COVID RESPONSES:**

#### **Parent Communication**

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

If you want to discuss anything 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.

#### **School Routines**

In order to keep the children safe all pupils should be assisted to wash their hands by a family member on arrival. Children wash their hands in school before each transition.

School windows and doors are open to allow for adequate ventilation in the room. This will continue into the colder months to help keep our children and staff safe.

Children will be reminded to practice good respiratory hygiene and will be encouraged to be independent in all school tasks.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### NURSERY ENROLEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

The application process will be available on the Education Authority Website - [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions)

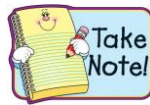
The application procedure opens on 10 January 2022 at 12noon and an application submitted by the closing date of 28 January 2022 at 12noon. Children should be born between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 ie aged 3 on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019. However, from time to time we have some vacancies for underage children/ summer birthday children – an application form for these age groups must be submitted.

Information: <https://www.victorianursery.org.uk/parents/admissions-and-induction/>

NOTE: **It is the responsibility of parents of current under-aged children to access an online form for next academic year to secure a place.**

### YEAR 1 ENROLEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

The application process will be available on the Education Authority Website - [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions) The application procedure opens on 10 January 2022 at 12noon and an application submitted by the closing date of 28 January 2022 at 12noon. Children should be aged 4 on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.



### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

This will be the last day of school before the Christmas Holidays and children may wear their ordinary clothes. No dinners will be served that day and **school will finish at 11.45am. Staggered pick up is from 11.30am – 11.45am.**

The school will recommence on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 9am.

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued help and support and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year**

