

# JANUARY 2022

## NEWS



**Please read about:**

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

## 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.



**Please allow your child to bring a Teddy Bear for our 'Bear Theme Day' on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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, Fire Fighters, Train drivers and police.

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. We will freeze water and observe ice formations and crystals.

### 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 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 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.



Our electronic devices lending scheme will begin this term. Children will be given an electronic device for a weekend once a month to extend learning.

## REMINDERS



### 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 should be submitted by the closing date of 28 January 2022 at 12noon. Children should be born between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 i.e. 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 until the closing date of 28 January 2022 at 12noon. Children should be aged 4 on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

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, 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 antibacterial wipes for use next term. We will collect these items from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the new term Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Many thanks.



### SCHOOL CHANGING BAGS

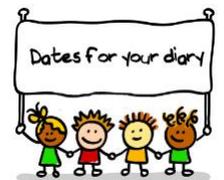
Please make sure you have a change of clothing in your child's bag which hangs on his / her hook in the children's bathroom. Do label your child's sweatshirt/ own coat clearly please.

### 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.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022



Bear Theme Day – all treats will be provided, children should bring ‘Teddy Bear’ or soft toy on the day to join in our fun activities.



### **February Mid-Term Holiday**

School will be closed for children for 1 week – from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February and re-open on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February at the usual time.

## **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 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 walk please around the slide and down the side of the tunnel to avoid congestion.
7. Please collect your child on time. 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. CO2 monitors are in use in our school.

If children become unwell whilst in school we will contact parents immediately.

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