

# FEBRUARY 2022

## NEWS



### Please read about:

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

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**FEBRUARY MID TERM BREAK :** School will be closed for children for 1 week – from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February until Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February and re-open on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## Our Learning

### COLOUR THEMES: - GREY / SILVER/ RED

We will focus on Grey, Silver and Red, basing some of our art/craft activities on these colours. Please encourage your child to discuss these colours at home.

### MATHEMATICAL EXPERIENCES

Our shape for the month is a triangle and we will provide a comprehensive range of activities and support materials to enable exploration of this shape. At home please look for this shape and encourage your child to recognise and name it.

### PEOPLE WHO HELP US

We will focus on people who help us including 'emergency services' e.g. fire fighters, ambulance crew and police officers during February. We will discuss awareness of our environment in which we live and identify those people who help keep it clean and tidy i.e. refuse collectors and street sweepers. We will make good use of the high visibility jackets and litter pickers donated by Belfast City Council some time ago.



### THE FIVE SENSES

We will be developing our sensory awareness during this month by providing activities, which explore touch, smell, sight, sound and taste.

Touch - We will explore various textures and observe, compare, experiment and practise descriptive and expressive skills.

Smell - Children will be encouraged to observe, compare and develop descriptive language skills as they begin to describe scented items.

Sight - We will explore with mirrors to learn about reflections and mirror images.

Sound - We will use listening and talking skills to re-create sounds in our environment i.e. water running, birds singing etc.

Taste - During this activity our children will explore the 4 major tastes that the tongue can sense – bitter, sweet, sour and salty.

During the above activity areas children will identify, compare and classify items as they investigate the world around them.

### ECO NEWS

#### TOPIC: - WEATHER

As a follow up to our winter topic we will observe and discuss the weather each day. We will describe the sounds of weather e.g. rain – drizzling, dripping, wind – howling.

We will be looking at the different clothes we wear in the rain – boots, raincoats, rain hats and umbrellas. We will develop an awareness of how vital water is for plants, animals and ourselves.



## SCIENCE

Science will be incorporated in our curriculum through the use of water for growth of bulbs, change in sand when water is added and also floating / sinking and absorption.

## NATURE



During February we will be observing our garden for signs of growth and development of our bulbs that we planted in autumn time. We will also look at developing leaf buds on our Cherry tree.

We will plant seeds and make planters for our school and the alleyway outside. We shall continue to feed the birds and identify different types in our environment. The children will be visited by Sammy Squirrel (Belfast City Council) to talk about spring and how to take care of our local environment.



## REMINDERS

## 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 after the midterm. Children will be given an electronic device for a weekend once a month to extend learning. Instructions about how to use the device and keep in safe will be included in the bag.

Every child has been given a home learning bag with various activities as part of our Getting ready to Learn Programme. Links and other information have been sent via Seesaw. This bag is to be kept at home to be used at your leisure and can also be in the case of school absence.

You can follow our **High 5 positive behaviour programme** focusing on Play, Praise, Commands, Rewards and Consequences. 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.

### **PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE**

During the month of February your child will continue to gain independence in personal needs e.g. putting on their coat for outdoor play, setting out the lunchtime cutlery. We will also continue to encourage respect of their and other children's work.

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/>

Please encourage your child's independence with toileting, feeding and dressing.

### **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**

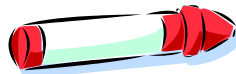
Have you or the person to contact in an emergency, changed address or phone number? If so please let us know immediately in case of an emergency. If you are unsure of the numbers you have given us, please feel free to check these out with us.

### **PIGEON HOLE**

Please check your child's 'Pigeon Hole' each morning of art work and important notices.

### **CLOTHING**

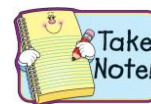
We would ask you to ensure that a change of clothes is available in your child's bag in the children's bathroom. To avoid mix-ups of coats, hats etc **please label** all items of clothing with indelible ink.



### **FEBRUARY MID TERM BREAK**

School will be closed for children for 1 week – from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February until Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February and re-open on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</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.

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. CO2 monitors are in use in our school.

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

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

The school staff wish to thank you for your continued help and support.