

# FEBRUARY 2026

## NEWS



**Please read about:**

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

School Contact Details – **phone:** 02890744247 **email:** [info@victorianursery.org.uk](mailto:info@victorianursery.org.uk) **website:** [victorianursery.org.uk](http://victorianursery.org.uk)

**FEBRUARY MID TERM BREAK :** School will be closed for children for 1 week – from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February and re-open on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

## Our Learning

### 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.

### FIRE SERVICE VISIT

The children will have a special visit from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. They will get to chat to the fire fighters and visit the fire engine.



### 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.



### THE FIVE SENSES

We will be developing our sensory awareness during this month by providing activities, which explore touch, smell, sight, sound and taste. During the activity areas children will identify, compare and classify items as they investigate the world around them. We will make pancakes for Pancake Tuesday and taste various toppings.

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 - We will explore the 4 major tastes that the tongue can sense - bitter, sweet, sour and salty.

### MESSY HANDS - ART SESSIONS

The school will work with Belfast City Council to deliver artist led creative sessions in school. This will take place every Tuesday morning after the midterm until Easter.

## **ASPIRE SHARED EDUCATION TRIP – THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

Our school is involved in Shared education with Shaftsbury NS and we visit the school each month to play with new friends. Children will leave school at 9.15am to go on a bus to Shaftsbury NS and return at 11.45am.

## **COACH LED SPORTS SESSION AT THE RECY**

This term we will walk to North Queen Street Community Centre, the Recy to take part in coach led sports sessions. This will take place 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March. The children will leave school at 9.30am to walk to the session and return by 10.15am.

## **ECO NEWS - TOPIC: WEATHER**

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 trees. We will plant seeds and make planters for our school. We shall continue to feed the birds and identify different types in our environment.



## **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE**

The school is using extended schools funding this year to deliver speech and language sessions with a Speech and Language Therapist called Helen from, 'Let's Expand'. Children have been assessed and sessions are taking place twice per month. This does not replicate community speech and language therapy and we would encourage you to access the Speech and Language programmes in the community – number to request speech and language community assessment- 02896158100.

Please help to promote talking and listening with your child at home. It is important to limit screen time and encourage your child to play indoors and outdoors and talk about their learning. If your child still sucks a dummy please limit it to bedtime so children can develop clear speech and so they can communicate fully with their friends in school.

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

## **FAMILIES FIRST PARENTS COURSE**

Thank you to the parents that have been able to attend our 4 week positive behaviour course. It has been enjoyable and parents have enjoyed taking a step back and trying fresh approaches to manage behaviour and build on positive relationships at home. The final session is on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

## **PARENTS WORKSHOP – HOW TO FLOURISH – Tues 25<sup>th</sup> FEB 9.30am – 11.30am**

Our school is involved in the EA Being Well Doing Well project which helps promote emotional health and wellbeing in our school community.

As part of this programme we would like to invite parents to a special 2 hour workshop called 'How to Flourish' on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 9.30-11.30am. This will be led by Brendan McCarry from the project and will look at trauma informed practice and how to build resilience. We hope you can come along.

## **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 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.



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.

## **SNACK MONEY**

Thank you for paying snack/ school fund money each week. We would ask to parents to maintain payment of Lunch/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. This is used to purchase daily fruit and snack food, resources for learning, to subsidise our summer trip, gifts for children and for events. This term our purchases include art materials, play materials, bird feeders, plants, cookery items and books.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER**

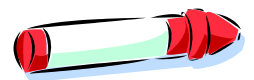
Have you or the person to contact in an emergency, changed address or phone number? If so please let us know immediately in case of an emergency. If you are unsure of the numbers you have given us, please feel free to check these out with us.

## **CHILDS BOX**

Please check your child's box 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.



## **NORTH BELFAST FOODBANK**

The school is a referral agency for the North Belfast Food Bank. Families can avail of this twice in a six month period. If you would like a voucher for the service please speak to Mrs McAllister.

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## **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 and wait until they are safely in the classroom before you leave.
  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](mailto:info@victorians.belfast.ni.sch.uk).

We are unable to answer the phone during teaching hours as we are with the children. Please only phone during contact time if it is an emergency. If you need to collect your child early please arrive at the school – there is no need to phone us.

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