

MARCH 2026 NEWS



Please read about:

- Our learning
- Reminders
- Dates for your diary

School Contact Details – **phone:** 02890744247 **email:** info@victorians.belfast.ni.sch.uk **website:** victorianursery.org.uk

St Patricks Day : School will be closed for children on the 16th and 17th March and will reopen on Wednesday 18th March

9th March - Parent Teacher Meetings

Easter holidays – the school will be closed from Thursday 2nd – Friday 10th April 2026.

May school closures -The school will be closed on Monday 4th May and Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May inclusiv

Our Learning

COLOUR THEME: GREEN

We will focus on GREEN, basing some of our art and craft activities on GREEN. Please encourage your child to discuss GREEN at home.

ECO NEWS - Topics

Observe the changes from winter to spring by looking for new growth – buds, shoots, flowers. We will also look at developing leaf buds on our cherry tree. Spring flowers we have planted include crocus, daffodils and hyacinth. We will use our senses of smell and touch and talk about the brighter days. We will also discuss & observe life cycles: Hen-egg- chick, Frogs-frogspawn- tadpoles 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.



Sammy the Squirrel Visit – Friday 20th March

The children will be visited by Sammy Squirrel (Belfast City Council) to talk about spring and how to take care of our local environment.

Healthy Eating: We will recognise the importance of keeping healthy through setting up a shop selling groceries and fruit & vegetables. We will display real and artificial products. We will discuss the individual distinctive features of each item and encourage children to interact with each other by taking turns to be shopkeeper and customers. They will discuss their choices, likes and dislikes and how much each item costs. We will read stories connected with spring and healthy eating and sing songs / rhymes appropriate to our topics.

We will provide notepads and pencils and discuss shopping lists. We will invite children to explain what they would like to include on their list. Staff will write their words e.g. carrots, potatoes. This helps your child understand that words convey meaning. You can help by encouraging your child to make your 'shopping list' at home by providing a notepad / paper and pencil. You could encourage your child to help put away fruit and vegetables and groceries after shopping trips and discuss shape, colour, size, weight and number of items purchased.



CARE OF TEETH – Dentist Visit 5th March

Our school dental nursery will visit us to talk about care of teeth and discuss healthy and unhealthy food, which affects our teeth. To take care of our teeth we talk about the importance of visiting the dentist regularly.

We have begun our tooth brushing programme in school in which children brush their teeth after their lunch. Children should continue to brush their teeth twice daily at home and visit the dentist every 6 months.

MESSY HANDS – ART SESSIONS

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

ASPIRE SHARED EDUCATION TRIP – Tuesday 24th March

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

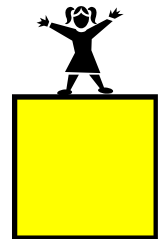
This term we will walk to North Queen Street Community Centre, the Recy to take part in coach led sports sessions. This will take place on the 4th, 11th and 25th March. The children will leave school at 9.30am to walk to the session and return by 10.15am.

COOKING ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

Green biscuits, Fresh Fruit Salad and we will chop green fruit and vegetables.

MATHEMATICS

Our shape for the month is a square and we will provide a comprehensive range of activities and support materials to enable exploration of this shape. Please encourage your child to find square shapes at home and in the environment.



HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME INDEPENDENT

- a) Please encourage and help your child to put on / fasten or zip up their own coat.
- b) Children are now recognising their own name so please discuss their own name. Look at the shape of the letters and make the sound of the initial letter i.e. **D** for Daniel.
- c) Please encourage your child to set the table for dinner i.e. placemat, knife / fork / spoon in the correct position etc.

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.

REMINDERS



HOME LEARNING

Home Learning Packs - Before Easter each child will be given a home learning bag packed with activities for you and your child to enjoy over the coming months. They will include scissors, dough, pens, books etc and advice to promote your child's 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/>.

Each 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.



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.

CLOTHING

Please provide a complete change of clothing for your child in case of a toileting or water tray accident. Please label all clothes and coats clearly with your child's name.

LUNCH/ SNACK MONEY

Thank you to our parents for their prompt payment of School Meals and Snack/ School fund money on **Monday mornings**. This helps us to operate more efficiently as our secretary only works on Wednesday mornings. A money envelope will be placed in



your child's tray each Friday. Please place the exact amount of money in the envelope and seal it and bring it to school on **Mondays** and place it in the yellow box.

Snack/ School fund money is £5 per week. Snack money is used to fund daily snack and we purchase other resources such as play items, art materials, cookery supplies gardening supplies and to subsidise events. Recently purchases have included new furnishings and equipment for the quiet room, plants, outdoor play equipment.

Snack is served at 10am each day. Parents should ensure that children have a healthy breakfast before they come to school. Good bedtime and morning routines help your child to have a successful session at school.

SCHOOL MEAL ROUTINES

During lunch time children are served a hot main meal and a desert. They are seated at the dinner table for approximately 30 minutes. They pour their own drink and use a knife, fork and spoon to eat their food. In order to help them please can you **encourage your child to sit for longer periods at the dinner table** at home and **encourage the use of cutlery**.

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.

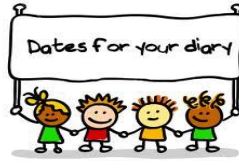
In the case of vomiting and diarrhoea – only when full sleeping and eating patterns have been re-established and your child is in good form. In the case of any vomiting and diarrhoea – 48 hours must have elapsed AFTER the last episode of diarrhoea before any child may safely return to school. For example, if your child had diarrhoea on Tuesday evening they should not return to school until Friday morning.

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. Only phone the school during teaching hours if it is an emergency and staff are with the children.

SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

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.



PARENTS WORKSHOP – HOW TO FLOURISH – Tues 3rd March 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 communicate.

As part of this programme we would like to invite parents to a special 2 hour workshop called 'How to Flourish' on Tuesday 3rd March 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.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Meetings will take place on Monday 9th March in person in the school office. Each informal meeting lasts approximately 10 - 15 mins and is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress. Please check the foyer for your child's meeting time.

School will be closed Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th March for St. Patrick's Day and will re-open on Wednesday 18th March at the usual time.

Easter holidays – the school will be closed from Thursday 2nd April – Friday 10th April 2026.



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