

August 2021

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to meeting your child soon and settling them into their very special year at nursery. Please take a look at our website with your child www.victorianursery.org.uk the video and photos will help introduce them to the setting.

In June I gave you your child's start date and time. If you did not receive this email contact me by email or phone 02890744247. As you know children in Victoria Nursery will be attending daily and fulltime after the normal staggered intake (usually by the end of September). Staggered intake is a normal procedure when beginning nursery school which facilitates a smooth transition from home to nursery and helps your child become secure and confident in their new surroundings. This slow transition provides the foundation for a more successful year and our staff are very experienced in supporting children and settling them into school.

I want to again thank you for completing the pupil information and consent forms and for collecting your induction packs in June. I have attached another copy of the induction pack which contains key information about uniform, snack, school policies, what to bring on your child's first day (snack money £5, change of clothes, 1 box of tissues, 1 bottle of hand soap and 1 packet of baby wipes) and advice for parents about how to prepare your child for nursery. Some areas for you to encourage with your child before starting nursery are to toilet independently, dress themselves (including putting on their own coat), blowing their nose and also teaching them to wash their hands thoroughly (I have attached a folder with visuals to encourage this). This information is also on our website www.victorianursery.org.uk under the parents section in 'admissions and induction'.

In Victoria Nursery School we are in a privileged situation of having one class of 26 pupils. We value preschool education and believe children benefit immensely from their time in nursery. **We can help keep our children and school community safe if parents work with us by engaging fully with our COVID response. It is our responsibility to work collectively as a school community (staff, parents and children) to make this work by following the guidance.**

1. VITAL ACTION - Illness:

Do not send your to school if they are unwell with any symptoms of illness e.g vomiting, diarrhoea etc.

Our school policy is in line with Public Health Agency guidance which states that if your child has vomiting or diarrhoea they should not attend school for at least 48 hours after the last session of vomiting or episode of diarrhoea.

This ensures viruses of this type do not circulate in our nursery.

2. COVID-19

Do not send your child to school if your child or anyone you live with has any of the following symptoms:

a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);

a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);

a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

If your child or anyone in your household has any of the symptoms above you should get a test for Covid-19.

2. Arrival Routines

- Children will enter through the playground through the doors in our veranda. Parents will queue on arrival and keep their children with them at all times.
- Red cones will be placed in the playground as markings for parents to queue to ensure there is social distancing on arrival.
- Parents will help their child hang up their coat on their symbol in our outdoor coat stand.
- Parents will assist their child in washing their hands thoroughly in our outdoor sink prior to entrance into the classroom.
- Parents will bring their child to the classroom door and their child will be met by a member of staff.

- Parents are unable to come into the classroom due to Department of Education COVID guidelines. Our staff members are very experienced at settling pupils into their nursery setting. However if your child remains unsettled staff will communicate with you directly regarding the next steps.
- Parents can relay brief messages or for example give snack money (in the weekly envelope provided) to the staff member on arrival. However more in depth communication should be carried out via email, phone call or arranged appointments with the principal.
- Important school notices will be texted or emailed to you or sent via Seesaw and will be displayed on the notice board in our veranda area.
- Please check your child's box each morning and take out all the items.
- We will also communicate with you through our website with photos uploaded regularly and through our Seesaw app. In September information will be given to you of how to connect to our seesaw app.
- When your child is in a full day, staggered arrival times will be from 9am – 9.30am.

3. Daily Class routines

- Your child will have access to a variety of stimulating indoor and outdoor play throughout the day. It is essential that they have a suitable outdoor coat (with a hood) each day and comfortable trainers with Velcro straps.
- Please ensure you put sun cream on your child at home before coming to school on sunny days as UV light is dangerous especially for young children's skin.
- Handwashing will be a key element before eating snack and lunch and after toileting, coughing or sneezing, if dirty or changing between particular tasks. Tissues and hand sanitisers are available in various parts of the play space.

- If your child becomes unwell during school they will be isolated and cared for by a member of staff in our school foyer and you will be contacted to collect them immediately. Please ensure to update us with new mobile numbers for contacts.
- If your child has any special medical requirements or allergies please inform us and provide a letter from your doctor to enable us to accommodate their needs.

4. Collection Routines

- Parents are asked to queue at home time to collect their child. The red cones will be placed outside to support social distancing.
- A staff member will bring your child to the door and you can assist them in lifting their coat.
- Ensure you check your child's pigeon hole daily for school notes, newsletters and most importantly art work from your child!
- When your child is in a full day staggered collection times will be from 1.15pm to 1.30pm at the latest. Please be on time as children can become upset if they are not collected on time. Our enhanced cleaning routines begin at 1.30pm and there is no available supervision of children after 1.30pm

As you are aware this situation is fluid and these routines are subject to change depending on advice from health and education agencies or due to reviews of our internal risk assessment. Our priority will always be the health and well-being of children, their families and staff whilst providing a caring, stimulating and happy learning environment for your child.

Please contact me if you have any questions via email or via phone 02890744247.

Kind Regards

Orla McAllister

Principal

