

autumn 1 newsletter

Welcome to all our new children and families! It's been a brilliant couple of weeks, watching all the returning children settling back in and the new ones getting used to the nursery routine. We send out this newsletter a couple of times a term; a printed version at the start of the year, but otherwise via Tapestry. Please make sure you have Tapestry working (Maddie in the office can help) as we use it for most of our communication with you.

We have some children and staff who have severe allergies to nuts at nursery. It is therefore vitally important that you **do not send any nut products into nursery in your child's lunchbox**. Children attending Lunch Club should bring a healthy packed lunch. Please use the link for some guidance from the NHS. [Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

We are also always very grateful for donations of healthy snacks for our snack tables. Please check with staff what's most needed. There is no need to send a water bottle to nursery. The children have access to milk and water in each session.

We are very keen to reinstate The Friends of Victoria Park this year. The Friends are our PTA and help to raise much needed funds for the nursery school. If you are interested in finding out more, please come along to our AGM at the nursery on Tuesday 14th October at 2:45pm.

We have reserved the last day of this term for the children's Christmas Parties. Times are on the diary dates overleaf, but please note that the classes will be CLOSED at other times on that day. All children are invited, whether or not they usually attend on a Thursday.

We are all looking forward to a busy and exciting term!

Lynda Shepherd



The children are settling in well and enjoying their time at Victoria



SAFEGUARDING: please make sure we have at least 2 phone numbers where we can contact you or a family member or friend in case of emergencies. If the school has to shut suddenly or if your child has an accident, we may need to contact you at short notice.

Just a reminder to keep a change of clothes in your child's bag on their peg in case of accidents! Lots of children are just learning to use the toilet and we run out of nursery clothes very quickly while all this is happening. Please be mindful that your child is getting used to a new environment and routine. You may notice an increase in the amount of toileting accidents they have as they settle in.

If you are concerned about your child's communication or language development, you can call and speak to a Speech and Language therapist. *Phone lines are open from 9am-3.30pm on a Tuesday and Thursday. Many issues can be helped by talking, so please call them on: 0118 9043700*

Please also share any concerns you have with your child's staff team, as we have a great deal of expertise in terms of supporting children's language development and will be happy to offer some help. Please also let the staff team know if you are already on the waiting list or have spoken to a Speech Therapist.

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE

We use Tapestry as our main way of communicating with families. Classroom staff will add photos and comments every so often and our admin team uses it to keep you updated.

Our main priority is to spend time with your children, helping them to learn and develop. Staff will only add observations and photos of significant learning and achievements.

Maddie in our school office can help if you cannot get Tapestry working and she can reset passwords if you have forgotten them.



At this time of year, when everything is new and exciting, it's not unusual for some children to feel some separation anxiety when saying goodbye to their parents/carers. CBeebies parenting have produced a useful guide on their website, that you may find useful if your child is struggling to separate from you at drop-off.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zjdsn9q>

Also keep a look out on Tapestry for your child's settling in observation and come and talk to staff if you are concerned about your child.



TALENTED FAMILIES?

Are there any parents or grandparents who can share their talents with the children? We'd love to hear from people who can play a musical instrument and join in a sing-along for example. We've also had parents in the past who've shared their singing and dancing talents with us, including dancers from south Asia who helped us celebrate Diwali. Or maybe you have someone in your family who is an artist? Please get in touch with your classroom staff if you have anything you can share.

FRIENDS OF VICTORIA PARK

We will be asking children to take part in an autumn treasure hunt over half term to raise money for the Christmas parties. Look out for more information coming soon.

Keep in touch with us!

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www.victoriapark.w-berks.sch.uk

We are also on Facebook - search for Victoria Park Nursery School, Newbury.

Twitter @VictoriaParkMNS

and

Instagram:

[Victoria_Park_Nursery_School](#)

diary dates

4 Oct	Open Day for prospective parents - 10:30-12:30
8 Oct	Autism drop-in at The family Hub with Liz Paterson (advisor). 9:15-10:30
8 Oct	Primary School applications meeting for Willow parents/carers - Family Hub - 2pm
22 Oct	Parents invited into nursery for Diwali Day - more information to follow on Tapestry.
24 Oct - 3 Nov	Half term. Children return to nursery on Tues 4th Nov.
5 Nov	Autism drop-in at The family Hub with Liz Paterson (advisor). 9:15-10:30.
3 Dec	Willow Group Rhyme challenge Chestnut Group Christmas Craft Day More information to follow on Tapestry.
3 Dec	Autism drop-in at The family Hub with Liz Paterson (advisor). 9:15-10:30.
10 Dec	Chestnut Group Rhyme challenge Willow Group Christmas Craft Day More information to follow on Tapestry.
18 Dec	Christmas Parties and last day of term. Willow Group: 9.00 to 11.00 am Chestnut Group: 11.30 to 12.30 pm Please note that classes will be CLOSED outside of these times.
5 Jan	Home visits to new children.
6 Jan	Willow Class Opens - breakfast and tea clubs run as normal.
7 Jan	Chestnut Class Opens