

spring 1 newsletter

A warm welcome to all the new children and families who have joined Willow and Chestnut Groups this term. I hope you have a very happy time with us at Victoria Park Nursery School.

Alongside the new children, we have welcomed Mrs Sheneka Lawson as the teacher in Chestnut Group on Thursdays and Fridays. We have also welcomed two new support staff in Chestnut, Deva Kiruba and Grace Tute. I am also delighted to let you know that Nina has passed her Level 3 qualification with a distinction! Nina is a highly valued member of our team and this achievement is testament to her hard work and dedication to caring for your children.



We love to bring the outside world to Victoria Park. In the Spring term we will be welcoming ZooLab, Farms2Ewe, chick eggs and caterpillars into nursery. At the end of next half term, we will be celebrating Easter by sharing our traditional egg rolling activities - the younger children in the garden and the older children at Goldwell Park. More information will follow soon! Please also take a look at the dates section for the upcoming rhyme challenges.

We value good attendance at Victoria Park and believe that a consistent attendance at Nursery School gives children access to a high quality early years education. Good attendance is valuable because it allows children to consistently access learning opportunities, develop social skills through interaction with peers, build routines and settle more easily into the nursery environment, and ultimately sets a foundation for positive future academic habits and overall school readiness. Essentially, regular attendance at nursery helps maximize your child's developmental potential during these early years.

We've noticed a lot of children are arriving late or being picked up early. This is disruptive to the children's learning, the routines in the classrooms and to the office. Please ensure you arrive with your child promptly for the start of their session and do not arrive before the end of the session to collect them, unless your child is still settling into nursery and is slowly building up their sessions on the advice of staff. Our sessions are 8:50-11:40 & 12:40-15:30.

The governors have sent out letters to all parents regarding the parent governor vacancy. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if this is something you would be interested in or you would like more information.

Lynda Shepherd
HEADTEACHER



SNOW PLAN: we often have snow alerts at this time of year. Sometimes nursery school has to close when there has been a heavy fall of snow. This is mostly due to the fact that many staff travel some distance to work and can't get here, and others are affected by school closures impacting their own families. If we have to close, we try to let you know as close to 7am as we can via Tapestry and our Facebook page. Our status will also be on the "school closures" page on the West Berks website.

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.

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. We've found recently that a lot of contact numbers are out of service when we try to call them. Please inform us straight away if your contact details change.

Toys—please leave toys at home. They can get lost or damaged at nursery, which can be upsetting for the children.



Friends of Victoria Park

A huge thank you to the Friends, who raised £163 for the nursery school with their Christmas raffle. Thank you to all the parents who donated and congratulations to the winners. The Friends met on Tuesday 20th Jan to plan this term's events. Watch out for more information! If you would like to help raise money for the nursery, please come along to the next meeting and get involved. The team is currently very small.

Our vision & values

You may remember last term, I mentioned our refreshed vision and values.

Vision: Together we encourage young minds through creative play to be curious, independent & resilient.

Values: Happy, safe, nurtured, valued, fun

Play is at the heart of everything we do at Victoria Park. We will soon be sharing more information about our curriculum with you, including our promise to childhood, through a new and improved website that is due to go live after half term.

Don't forget you can also find some ideas for games to play at home on the Tiny Happy People website. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/2-to-3-year-old-child-development-activities>



NO NUTS, SWEETS OR CHOCOLATE!

Please do not send in nuts, sweets or chocolates with you child. We've found sweets and chocolates in children's bags recently and some children have tried to share them. This is dangerous for children with allergies. Please keep these as treats for home and don't send them to nursery.

Keep in touch with us!

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We are also on Facebook - search for Victoria Park Nursery School, Newbury.
 and
 Instagram: Victoria_Park_Nursery_School

HALF TERM EVENTS

As always, there are lots of half term activities locally. Have a look at westberkshirefamilylife.com for all the details, or pop into the Corn Exchange or the Museum to see what they have planned.



diary dates

27 Jan	Zoo Lab visiting nursery
16-20 Feb	Half term - nursery school closed.
5 Mar	World Book Day—more information to follow.
10/11 March	Parent appointments for Willow Group.
13 March	Farms2Ewe visiting nursery
19 March	Friends of Victoria park Easter Fayre
24 Mar	Chestnut & Willow Group Rhyme Challenge—see Tapestry for timings.
27 March	Willow Group - Egg Rolling am and pm in Goldwell Park. Watch out for further details!
27 March	Last day of term.
30 March -10th April	Easter holiday—nursery school is closed
13 April	Home visits day.
14 April	Willow Group Return Stay & Play for new children in
15 April	Chestnut Group open for returning children.