



Victoria House Newsletter May, June & July 2018

Welcome to the Staff Team

We must give a warm welcome to our new staff members, Sarah Thomas, Roseanne Cunningham and Kiera Sherrocks. Kiera has taken up the position of an apprentice in Preschool, working towards her Level 3 in Early years Practice along with Lauren Kelly who has recently completed her Level 2.

Sarah Thomas has two hats one role as House Keeper which is a joint responsibility with Caroline Uren, and the second as preschool support staff. Sarah brings maturity and experience to the role and is proving to be a great asset to the Victoria House team turning her hand to any job and no task is too big or difficult.

Roseanne comes to us from another Nursery and has some experience in early years. Roseanne has taken on the role of Homework Club Practitioner and bank staff and has quickly become popular with the children.

It is with sadness that we have to announce that Bethany Counsell on the Toddler Floor will be leaving us toward the end of August to take up a promotion working as head of the house keeping for the DOI in a school in Ramsey. Bethany came to us a young girl starting out in her professional career, completing her level 3 through an apprenticeship and has been a fantastic team member, who will be missed by all of us here at nursery. However we celebrate her achievements and we know that she will keep in touch with us here at nursery.

We look forward to a fun and happy future with the 3 new additions to our ever growing Victoria House Family.

Amica and Pippa, we hope, will return to us in the winter months and

AND SUDDENLY
YOU JUST KNOW
IT'S TIME TO START
SOMETHING NEW
AND TRUST
THE MAGIC
OF BEGINNINGS

<https://motivationping.com/quotes-new-beginnings/>

A Message from the Management team

These last few months have been very busy and a lot has happened, people have moved on, staff teams have changed and we are approaching the beginning of a new school year. Some of our Preschool children will be moving on and a new cohort of eager learners will be joining the team downstairs.

Each year, when new beginnings start, the feelings of the staff never change; sad with the loss of our children to school; but also excited for the children who we are confident have been given the tools to achieve their goals in life. We look forward to celebrating with them in the future and hope that the families will keep in touch.

We all look forward to this new school year with excitement and enthusiasm and wait with bated breath for the next instalment of our enthralling adventure that is life.

Date for the diary

27th August closed for
Bank Holiday

8th October Whole
Nursery Photo day

31st October In house Hop
Tu Naa celebrations

24th December to the 1st of
January inclusive closed
for Christmas Break

2nd January re-open new
year

5th January 2019 Baby
wing and Toddler Floor
New year Tea party NSC

27th April 2019 Preschool
Tea party NSC

Watch out for:

Visit from some of the
residents at Anfield
Manor & Marathon Court

Visits from external guest
such as Sushi Chef, the
recycling plant and fire
service.

Curriculum Evening
Sept/October 2018

Much more to come!

take on banking/support roles when needed in nursery.

Exciting times ahead for all of us!

News from Baby Wing

Over the last few months the children have been exploring spring and summer with a particular emphasis on baby animals. They have enjoyed decorating chicks using feathers and exploring their senses with different textures in their art work as well as experimenting with the feathers, throwing them in the air and watching them float down; or trying to influence where they go and how they float by blowing on the feathers. A beautiful display was created decorating lambs and bunnies with cotton wool and painting beautiful daffodils that we had observed appearing when we were out on our walks.

The small world animals have proved very popular with the children in the past weeks and they particularly enjoyed exploring the farm yard scene that was set up. To support the children's learning and current interests we have been singing 'old MacDonald had a farm' and 'five little ducks' as well as joining Toddler Floor for their Wednesday music session with John. The children really enjoy these sessions getting involved with the singing and actions as well as investigating the guitar and helping him play!!

From farm animals we moved our focus onto Zoo animals and those that live in the out of captivity. We have supported the children to listen to sounds that are made by the different creatures and to pay attention to the world about them, identifying birds in the garden at nursery using sound.

We have been taking advantage of the summer weather and enjoying big

walks through the park and observing the environment whilst out and about.

The decking has been very popular and the children are exploring the sand and water play opportunities as well as playing with the bubbles, which is a favourite.

Charlotte Downward – Deputy and Head of Baby Wing

News from Toddler Floor

The Toddlers have been spending a lot of time outside in the garden, enjoying the good weather this summer. They have really enjoyed water play, especially our new water wall, pouring water down the guttering, playing with water guns and in the paddling pool. They have also enjoyed helping Beth to water the vegetables and flowers in the garden using watering cans. We planted sunflowers and they have grown very tall so we re-planted them in the nursery garden.

The children found lots of mini-beasts in the garden including worms, woodlice and millipedes and we read some books to find out more about them.

There has been experimentation with ice, when we explored coloured ice cubes, watching them melt in the hot sun and in our hands. We even made our own ice-lollies and banana ice-lollies, which we enjoyed for our afternoon snack.

The Toddlers have been exploring paint, using a lot of different things to paint with, including potato printers, potato mashers, rollers, toy cars, rakes and sponges. We also painted sparkly Manx flags for Tynwald day.

A few toddlers were interested in the beach as they had visited beaches with their Mummies and Daddies. So we made a seaside small world, with sea animals, sand and shells. Then we found some snorkels, goggles and fins to pretend to be scuba divers.

The children enjoyed reading "Commotion in the ocean" and "There's a hole in the bottom of the sea linking to their learning of the marine environment.

Anna Moore – Toddler Floor Supervisor

News from Pre-School

With In the Moment Planning the children are actively learning, exploring and developing all the time; With this in mind, we plan activities based on their interests daily. Some of the Mini Topics observed over the last couple of weeks have been:

Fire- The children have engaged in imaginative play around Firefighters, they used the area in front of the log cabin as the Fire Station and rang the bell to alert the Fire men, they then ran round the garden putting 'fires' out using poles. To enhance play we added hoses of different lengths and sizes, dressing up clothes, fire hats and telephones. We provided activities such as, shaving foam mixed with red and yellow powder paint and syringes or water pistols to put out the fire, the children watched as the paint mixed and turned orange. The children extended this and began firing water out of the syringes and at each other, into the trees and up in the sky. We have also enjoyed water fights, target practice using water bombs.

Future Focus: The Fire Service have been contacted and we have asked for a visit, we even asked that they send a female fire fighter along as a lot of the boys and girls are unaware of fire women.

Recycling- The children began doing daily 'tidy ups' of the garden and packing all the items into the recycling lorry (under the red slide). We created a spot tray of natural resources and items that could be recycled for the children to sort. We read Michael Recycle and talked about leaving rubbish around the garden and on the beach.

Future Focus: The recycling centre have been contacted and we are

hoping for another visit. We hope that we may find out more details about what happens once the truck has left the carpark.

Eggs- The children were observed to be protecting nests of eggs (tyres and footballs) daily. The children were 'laying' dragon and mermaid eggs, we discussed what types of animals lay eggs, the children were all very knowledgeable about this topic. This week we planned to find out How many animals lay eggs?, Where are the eggs laid and why? Does it only happen at a certain time of the year? We provided nest building materials for the children to get hands on and creative, we talked about making them strong and cosy and how to protect them from predators. *We also made shredded wheat chocolate nests which linked to this and the Mud Kitchen interest below*

Digging Patch/Mud Kitchen- The children were observed to be interested in making and selling ice-creams. We provided real cones and coloured, scented cloud dough and sprinkles for the children to explore. The children were also seen to be making cakes in muffin trays and plant pots. We added cupcake cases, herbs and water to create thicker, mouldable mud and an oven. The children have created some beautiful cakes, which they made a cake stand and began to sell them.

We welcome you to come in and see the daily planning board, also your child's observation wall which your child's Key worker is happy to discuss. Please remember to add your own WOW! moments as this helps us learn more about where your child is at with their development as we don't always see everything that your child does, so it is nice to hear about what they do at home.

**Sally Bell – Deputy and Head of
Preschool/Curriculum**

Seashore school & Woodland Learning

“The best kept classroom and the richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky” Margaret McMillan (c1925)

Spring has been and we restarted our woodland learning program. Upon returning to the Glen the children discovered that the Resident Giants have been playing pooh sticks and thrown some big trees into the river! some of them missed and have blocked the path. So the Glen keepers have chopped up the trees to make special seats for children (and the trolls who live in the Glen!) None of the fairies came out to play despite the children knocking on all the fairy house doors. A lot of the children identified the occupants of the fairy houses by the names above the doors! The children were reminded of the boundaries in the Glen and explored the environment identifying areas they need to avoid. We have continued with activities such as 'going on a Bear Hunt' (finding lots of thick oozy mud and streams to cross) and The Gruffalo discovering the snakes log pile house. They were particularly interested in the cannons pointed out to sea at the bottom of the Glen, making up stories of pirates who came to the island but apparently do not live here anymore. If you are interested in ideas when out and about with your children we have included a link to the woodland trust which thought would be a little bit of fun for families to do together. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/.../2016/03/spring-scavenger...> The children found all of the items on our list and more including a leaf that has been nibbled (by the hungry caterpillar apparently) Skeleton leaf, Garlic, buds, Flowers, Lichen Tree roots on a tree that has fallen and many more items. Using the Hunt built on their observation skills and supported their Knowledge and Understanding of the environment through questions and deductions. This week there was a lot of fascination looking up towards the sky and seeing a plane high up (we think maybe going to America to get warm!). They also found a tree we think was trying to hug a Giant! See if you can find it in the Glen if you visit with your children! The Glen is a fabulous environment and an opportunity for the children to use their imagination and tell us stories

along the way. The program will continue and we all look forward to more adventures.

Woodland learning was quickly followed by Seashore school, with the emerging summer. The children took walks down to the Beach and explored the seashore environment. Stories were told, rock piles were built (stacking of stones was particularly competitive with sculptures included) pirates were spotted and treasure was found; the biology of fish was studied and some were found to be “very smelly”. The children's observation skills were excellent observing routes taken, birds singing, trees, flowers and many, many, other things in the world around them.



Ben My Chree we have discovered its secret it's a pirate ship in disguise?



How cold is the water?

At Victoria House Nursery we celebrate the outdoors and the benefits to learning and development are high. We are lucky in the Isle of Man that we can access both the seashore and inland environments

and it is our intention to expand on this and diverse land.

If you are interested we have attached some links to articles on the benefits of learning in the outdoor environment if you are interested. The reading is very informative and we base a lot of our ideas and planning around the academic theories for child development.

file:///C:/Users/Office10/Documents/Curriculum/fs_learning_outdoors_resource_book.pdf

<http://www.lotc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Benefits-for-Early-Years-LOtC-Final-5AUG09.pdf>

Benefits of All age interaction

At Victoria House Nursery we have a small program which involves visits to local residential homes at Anfield Manor and Marathon Court. At Easter we visited both settings and the children had two very different experiences in each setting; singing and dancing with an Easter Egg hunt at Anfield Manor and arts and crafts with the residents with a little performance of song and dance with the residents at Marathon Court.

These visits are beneficial to all participates and supports social interaction between the young and old.

It is our hope in the coming weeks that some of the residents from Anfield Manor will visit us at Nursery in the coming weeks so watch this space

Transitions from Nursery to School

Over the last twelve months the staff at Victoria House Nursery have been working closely with practitioners from other nurseries, child care providers and teachers from all over

the Island to improve the transition process from early years care to school. This has meant a lot of late nights after work to attend meetings with other professionals. The project is far from complete and will always be changing and improving. The work has culminated in a lot of the schools gaining a more detailed knowledge and understanding of the practicalities of transition and it is our hope that progress will continue to be made in the coming years.

At Victoria House Nursery, we have been commended by the department of Education on being ahead of most establishment's and schools in our transition process. Building on this work and the combined forums in the previous months has culminated in most of the schools visiting the children here at nursery some of which will continue over the summer. We celebrate this progress and look forward to continuing to work with other Early Years providers and the department of Education to improve the transitions to the benefit of the children.

What's in our Lunchbox

"Food is the one central thing about human experience that can open both our senses and our conscience to our place in the world."

ALICE WATERS Founder of the Edible Schoolyard Project

One of the most frequently asked questions we have in nursery is "what shall I put in my child's lunch box?" It is a veritable minefield in these early years and children's tastes change frequently and some foods they liked one week, they refuse the next week. There are many reasons for this, growing and the associated hormonal changes are one of the main contributors. However to support our families with this common dilemma we have

introduced our fruit & vegetable plot which has been proved a hit with the children. The children have taken part in the growing process from 'tuber& seed' to fruit and veg with the cucumber being a particular hit. It is my hope that next year we will expand on this program and develop it a little more. The theory behind the practice is that children are more likely to eat what they grow and get more excited about meal times. It does not work for all but I have witnessed a child who refuses a shop bought cucumber but tucked into our home grown ones and came back for more. We have had children who would not normally entertain a lettuce leaf but exploring the different tastes of the salad we have growing in the garden (the spicy ones being popular).

<https://edibleschoolyard.org/>

To link in with these ideas we have put in some suggestions for lunch boxes and encouraging your children to help prepare their lunches may help them to eat what is made. As a mum I know how hard it is to maintain variety and ensure that it is something our children will eat so we hope that what we do in nursery with programs such as the veg patch and our cooking exploits help support all our families with encouraging the children to eat a healthy balanced diet that they enjoy.

Sweet potato crisps

By **Chelsie Collins**

Ingredients

- ¼ small sweet potato
- ½ tbsp olive oil

Method

1. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6 and slice the sweet potato thinly. Toss with the olive oil and roast for 15-20 mins until crisp. Leave to cool.

Chicken taco salad

By Chelsie Collins

Ingredients

- ¼ tsp olive oil
- Olive oil ...
- 2 tbsp low-fat soured cream
- 1 tsp white wine vinegar
- 1 Baby Gem lettuce, shredded
- 50g sweetcorn, drained
- Sweetcorn
- 5 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 75g cooked BBQ chicken
- juice 1 Lime
- ½ small avocado peeled and chopped
- Avocado Although it's technically a fruit, the mild-flavoured avocado is used as a vegetable.
- 1 corn taco shell, broken into pieces

Method

Make the dressing by combining the oil, soured cream and vinegar. Keep in the fridge.

Put the lettuce, sweetcorn, tomatoes and chicken in a lunchbox. Stir the lime juice into the avocado and put on top. Pack the dressing on the side. Scatter the taco over the salad to serve.

Stripy hummus salad jars

Ingredients

- 140g frozen soya beans
- 200g tub hummus (reserve 2 tbsp for the dressing)
- 2 red peppers (or a mixture of colours) finely chopped
- Half cucumber, finely chopped
- 200g cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 2 large carrots
- small pack basil
- 2 large carrots peeled and grated
- 4 tbsp pumpkin seeds (optional)
- For the dressing
- zest and juice 1 lemon
- 1 tbsp clear honey

- 2 tbsp hummus (from the tub, above)

Method

1. First make the dressing. Put the ingredients in a jam jar with 1 tbsp water. Screw on the lid and shake well. Set aside.
2. Bring a small pan of water to the boil, add the beans or peas and cook for 1 min until tender. Drain and run under cold water until cool. Divide the remaining hummus between 6 large jam jars. Top with the drained soya beans or peas, peppers, cucumber, tomatoes, basil leaves, carrots and pumpkin seeds, if using. Screw on the lids and chill until needed. Will keep in the fridge for 24 hrs.
3. When ready to serve, pass around the jars and let everyone pour over a little dressing. Recipes from BBC Good food

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/school-lunch>

<http://www.eatingwell.com/recipes/17962/healthy-kids/lunch/>

<https://www.thekitchn.com/thinking-outside-the-lunch-box-10-sandwich-free-kids-lunch-ideas-222906>



Message from Amica Hattersley

“Hello children and parents at Victoria Nursery, I’m half way through my time out here in Ibiza working with the children on their holidays. I am having great fun and although it’s very hot to work in, I love the constant sunshine and being able to swim in the sea. The ‘play house’ where I work and the children come to play is amazing and we carry out science experiments and crazy kitchen activities. When I am home in November I am planning to come back and work at the nursery on the bank and am really looking forward to seeing you all again and to meeting the new children, I’m sure I

will be able to see great improvements in everyone’s development and hope that you will have lots to tell me!

Here is some of Amica’s Art work in Ibiza!!!



Parents learning through Play

We held our first Parents learning through Play evening in April and whilst we did not have many parents from Baby wing or Toddler Floor it was a resounding success. Parents came into Nursery for the evening and discovered how their children learnt through the day by having a go at some of the activities and talking to some of the practitioners. There was practical advice offered on subjects such as toileting and food. The general consensus was that it was very informative and everyone had a lot of fun. This is something we are going to continue and develop in the future. We must apologise for the delay in the quiz results but I can announce that there are joint winners for the quiz Lyndsay Brew and Fiona Gavin.

Bespoke Children Parties

Anna Shaw has set up a little children’s parties and Fit kids business out of hours. If you are interested in booking a party or more information on the Fit kids please contact Anna Shaw on 324982

Request for help from parents

With the summer weather here and the unusually warm weather for the Isle of Man, many of the children are coming in with a variety of clothing to ensure they are comfortable throughout the day. To ensure that your children go home with their

clothing please can all our families label the items. We have a lot of children on site and it is difficult to remember what everyone wears throughout the day. Whilst the Nursery staff do their very best to ensure clothes are returned to owners at the end of each day, the job is made very difficult if they are not named. Therefore, as a result of some clothes getting mixed up, in future if there is no label in your child's clothes practitioners will be writing their names on the inside labels where it is discreet, in permanent pen so that clothing is clearly identifiable.

Following on the theme of clothing and footwear the summer weather is affecting all our feet and sandals or cooler footwear has become somewhat a necessity for children and practitioners. However we would be grateful if our families would ensure that they are still in appropriate summer foot wear for activities at nursery. A particular type of shoe we would strongly discourage is Croc's, whilst they have their place on the beach or near water environments, they are not appropriate in the Nursery environment. Your co-operation on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Please can we also remind our families that plastic bags are not allowed in the nursery. Unfortunately we have observed that a number of commercial plastic bags have been found in the children's bags, on their pegs. We would be grateful you would refrain from using plastic bags in the interest of safety for all in Nursery.

Babysitting

All the staff, at Victoria House Nursery, recognise the demands on

modern families and the difficulties in getting support when parents have functions in the evening after nursery hours; but have no local support from family or friends. We understand that many of our staff help our families on such occasions, however we would be like to take the opportunity to remind our families that this is a private arrangement and does not involve the nursery. We would also respectfully request that if our staff's services for babysitting are required on a week day to remember that many of our employees have early or late shifts and their working day is very demanding. Consequently babysitting late at night on a week day may affect performance the following day.

Many thanks for your help with this matter and we appreciate your understanding



DRESSING UP FOR WORLD BOOK DAY & VICTA

World book day was a great success as well as our dress up day to support VICTA and Greg Turner in his fund raising efforts.

Victoria House Nursery does a lot of fund raising over the course of a year and this is an important part of children's development to understand that other people of different needs, require support on occasions. The staff at Nursery support the children's social development by explaining the purpose of such events as world book day or our sponsored Jog and this helps them with their Knowledge and understanding of the world. We are proud of all that our Victoria House family do to support worthy causes and will continue to do

so in the future. If you have an event which we can help with from either hosting something with the children or staff or just need to have advertised please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to support the charity.

Spaces in Preschool

With the new academic year fast approaching some of our children will be leaving Victoria House to start their new adventure at School. This means that we do have some availability in our Preschool and should you or any family member, or friend, be interested you can contact the office to check availability.

To all our families and friends

If you would like to put in an article to our newsletter, whether it be about your working life, fund raising scheme, activities you would like to share or family adventures, please let us know as we would welcome your input. Thank you for your continuous support throughout the year and we look forward to adventures in the future. We leave you now with this little poem!

Summer poem



<http://summeressay.blogspot.com/2017/04/jus-t-touch-of-crazy-quotsummer-isquot.html>