



May 2024

Dear Parents/carers,

This month the children at Abacus have been enjoying watching our tadpoles grown in the pond and learning all about the life cycle of a Frog.

We have also been enjoying some of the lovely sunshine we have been having, and have enjoyed splashing in the paddling pool and showing everyone their new sunhats.

Forest school is still proving to be very popular and the residents are still enjoying watching and joining in with the activities.

We are also still enjoying our weekly Music Bugs and Mini Footy sessions (which have changed their days from this month) 😊

Spring Activities to try at home -

Twig hunt - when you are out and about at the weekend, can your little one find any fallen twigs or sticks? Who can find the largest, shortest, thickest, spikiest, roughest, tickliest or smoothest? If you are somewhere where there are lots of trees around you, why not lie on the ground and see how many sticks it takes to make a circle/square around you (tip for the grown-ups - this is a very good way for you take a lie down and be still, or vice-versa). Have a fun time!

Freezing Nature - on your next walk help your little one to collect leaves, seeds, flowers, pebbles or anything that catches their eye. Then, when you get home, put all the 'nature treasure' on a tray to explore and talk about it. Next, fill a container with water, place the items in the water and freeze! Once it's frozen, bring the block back out and talk about what has happened. Then, as the ice begins to melt, talk about what's happening. Why not add spoons or a little more water? How does the ice feel - cold, wet, slippery?

Shadow Tracing - when the sun shines, why not do some shadow tracing around the shadows of your little one's favourite toys? It's a great way to develop their hand-eye coordination, fine motor control and learn a little science too! All you need are interesting objects, chalks or felt tip pens and paper. Make sure the chosen toys are lined up in the sun (plastic dinosaurs/animals are great!) and casting a shadow onto the paper and there you have it, just simply draw around the shadows!

If you try any of the activities we would love to see your photos on Tapestry 😊

Telephoning nursery - if you are ringing nursery please be aware that between 11.30 - 12.45 we may not get to the phone in time due to sitting up for lunch (please leave a message if urgent or ring back). If at all possible, please avoid this time for ringing and we can then give you more of our time before or after lunch.

Staff news - Milly has finished Uni now and will be doing some extra hours with us over the summer. She will also be going full time with us in September which is great news 😊
Ringla, Rachael & Natalie have now started with us, and are all doing great and settling well in to with Abacus Team!

Sadly Karen will be leaving us at the end of June. She is currently studying at Bristol Uni and is finding the commute to much, therefore will be moving back there ahead of next year.

We are also advertising for an Apprentice, so if anyone knows of anyone who will be leaving school this year and wanting to start out their early years career please ask them to get in touch with us 😊

Speech & Language - There is currently a 8-12 month delay with speech and language support in Somerset. If you have concerns about your child's communication please do let us know. The SEND services also have limited staffing and long delays. Luckily we have a very knowledgeable, and highly qualified team so are not overly concerned but this still isn't ideal. Any referrals would need to be done earlier rather than later.

Mental Health Awareness Week - 13th to 19th May! Staff will be wearing green on Monday 13th May to support this event and we will be providing them with extra wellbeing support and treats. We will also do extra Yoga and mindful activities with the children 😊

Warmer weather - As the weather has started to warm up a little please remember sun hats and we ask that children do not wear strappy tops (so that shoulders are covered). If you wish for your child to wear sunglasses they would need to have the strap to secure them, however we do have plenty of shade in the garden so they shouldn't be needed (we cannot guarantee that if taken off they will remain safe). Shoes should have backs on them (not flip flops) as the children love to ride the bikes etc and flip flops do seem to cause accidents.

Reminder - sun cream - please can you remember to apply before coming to nursery (there will be a bottle in the porch for you to use if you do accidentally forget to apply at home). We will reapply after lunch for those children attending all day. Please make sure your sun cream does not contain nuts as we have children here with nut allergies - Thank you

Fees - Could we ask all parents to check their standing orders and ensure they are paying full fees in advance. This month a third of payments were either very late, wrong amounts (over/under paid) or paid into the account that closed last year. Please remember that our policy states - a £10 charge will be levied for each week this is not addressed. So please make sure your amounts/dates of standing order etc are correct. As per our policy fees are due in advance for the month. We appreciate your support with this - it is very time consuming and not pleasant having to chase fees. If you are having problems with paying fees it is always best to get in touch promptly so we can try to help.

Name: Abacus, Bank: HSBC, Sort code: 40-14-13, Account number: 64038525

Starting School - Our school leavers have now found out their new schools for September, they have all been very excited (and a little nervous which is quite normal). We have made a display with them which is on the front door in the porch, this should show schools that they

will be attending. If you didn't get your first choice of school and you would like some advice please call the office, try to remain positive in front of your little one so that they do not pick up on your worries. We will continue with pre-school sessions over the summer term to help the transition be as smooth as possible, and we will soon be inviting teachers in to visit!

Tapestry- If you haven't been saving your Tapestry photos and posts please make sure you do this by September 1st, this is when your account will close!

Tapestry are now offering a 'Printed journal' to parents. If you wish to purchase one, please follow the link: [Printed Journals | Tapestry UK](#)

Sessions for September - most sessions are now full so if you are considering changing or adding extra sessions please get in touch soon or you will be disappointed. Even if you will be thinking about increasing later in the year, it would be a good idea to get in touch now as we have limited availability until Sept 2025!

Funding - For children already receiving funding (2 year or 3/4year 15/30 hour) please remember to ensure that you reconfirm your funding with County, if you forget this may impact the funding you are entitled to.

When children are on early years funding (universal and extended) we are now asking that you only make changes at the start of a new term (with a minimum months notice for September, January and April) - thank you for your anticipated support with this.

Healthy Start (Get help to buy food and milk) - We did post a link to this a while back but thought it was worth mentioning again! If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk! To find out more please follow the link - [Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#)

All About Me - we will be uploading this to Tapestry shortly. The 'All About Me' will allow us to be continually updated on your child's interests and are really valuable to the staff team when planning for your child. If you haven't completed one before and would like a bit more information please let us know - we are happy to help!

Dates for the diary -

- **May Bank holidays** - 6th & 27th (closed)
- **Pyjamarama** - Friday 17th May 2024!
- **Photographer** - 11th June (morning) If you wish to bring your child in or bring a sibling along (if not your normal day) please email the office 😊
- **Glastonbury Week!** - 24th - 28th June 2024 (Staff and children will wear 'festival' clothing for the whole week 😊)
- **Garden book share for our toddler and preschool children** - Tuesday 30th July
- **Baby room summer stay and play** - 20th August 4.30pm-5.15pm (pop in for a quick play at the end of the day - if it is your little ones usual day) 😊
- **Summer Bank holiday** - 26th August (closed)
- **School Leavers Party** (and last day) - 1.45-4.15pm (parents invited in between 3.30-4.15pm) - August 30th

- **Christmas Church Service**- Wednesday 11th December @ 6.15pm. St Peters Church, Eastwick Road, Taunton.
- **Christmas 2024**- Our last day will be Friday 20th December 2024, and we will re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2025

Thank you for your continued support,
Sophie, Jordyn & the Team 😊

School leavers party - 30th August we will be holding a party at nursery for the school leavers! The party will start at 1.45pm, children will play traditional party games and we will hold a small graduation event (where all children will collect a certificate to celebrate their time with us, their younger nursery friends will be watching and cheering. At 3pm we will have a picnic tea 😊 From 3.30pm until 4.15pm we will be having free play and ice creams (from an ice cream van) in the garden, we would like to invite parents to pop in during this time to have an ice cream (bring your pennies) too! The stage will be decorated so this will offer the perfect opportunity for you to get some photographs of your child (with or without you/key person) and for you to say your goodbyes 😊

An ice cream van is visiting and will be parked on the drive, we will purchase a lolly or ice cream for the children but parents please bring your pennies if you think you would like one!

If it is not your child's normal day please contact the office to book them in (we need to know how many extra children to cater for). The cost of the school leavers party this year is **£13.75**

Please remember it is in our policy that parents will not add photographs to any social media platform that has other children in them. If taking photographs with other children please let staff know so that we can ensure you have the other parents agreement before taking the photograph. Can we ask that photographs are only taken on the stage (so that we can monitor for **safeguarding**) and that all mobile phones are put away at other times. Anyone using a mobile phone away from the stage area will be asked to pop it away. After the party last year several families went to the local park for an hour and they had a fabulous time - one parent has already suggested that this would be lovely to do again this year 😊

Please note this is parents/adults only- please do not bring your other children with you (unless they are already in nursery that day) as it gets to busy in the garden!

If you haven't been saving your Tapestry photos and posts please make sure you do this by September 1st, this is when your account will close!

Our contact details; abacuschildrensnursery@outlook.com

01823 288681

Support/Advice contact numbers;

You can give Mindline (Somerset) a call 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. No one should face poor mental health alone; <https://www.mindinsomerset.org.uk/> 01823 276892

NSPCC: [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247)

OFSTED: [0300 1231231](tel:03001231231)

Preventing Radicalisation & extremism in Somerset: prevent@somerset.gov.uk 01823359879

Somerset integrated domestic abuse services: [0800 694 9999](tel:08006949999)

Men's advice line (domestic abuse): [0808 801 0327](tel:08088010327)

Children's social care Somerset: [0300 123 2224](tel:03001232224)