



September 2023

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us this term. We hope you will be very happy during your time with us, if you have any queries please let us know and we will do our very best to help. We do have some (very limited) sessions available if your child would benefit from some 'extras' to help them settle. If you are considering increasing once your child is settled or even an 'ad hoc' session if that would be useful please email or call the office and we will do all we can to support this.

Staff News - We are sure you are all now aware that I am leaving soon (Claire) to embrace a new challenge! I will miss Abacus as it has been a huge part of my life for the last 5 years and I have truly loved every day. I am sure my last day here will be quite emotional! I wish you all the best 😊 The manager role has been advertised and interviews offered to candidates. We hope that very soon you will have a new manager who will continue to support Abacus in developing and maintaining its high standards. We will keep you updated 😊 Sadly, Shel has also decided it is the right time for her to embrace something new and she will also be leaving near the end of September. We have already filled this role and we are delighted to let you all know that Jordyn (our current Senco) will be the new Deputy. Jordyn is very excited to be taking over the deputy role from September 25th and will act as manager until the manager's position is filled. Over the next few weeks we will all work together to ensure that Abacus continues to be the amazing nursery that it is. The team are excited about the future and looking forward to supporting a new management team.

Tapestry - Just a reminder that we aim to add to your child's Tapestry each week. However, if we have staff off (sickness and holidays) we will always prioritise the children's care and learning which can result in a slight delay in uploading their Tapestry for you to view. We are sure you will agree that this is far more important. We will of course always do our best to ensure it doesn't happen too often. Please don't forget to add photos and comments about their wonderful adventures at home, this will help to make the journal a true account of their early years and it of course helps us get to know your child even better. Please remember to save any Tapestry photographs/posts that you wish to keep 😊

Clothing - Now the weather is on the change please make sure the items of spare clothing in your child's nursery bag is appropriate and named. We play out in all weathers so a

waterproof coat is a must. Children upstairs should wear non slip socks when it starts to get a little colder please.

Breakfast - please remember that breakfast finishes at 9am, should you arrive just before 9am your child will be offered fruit and a drink, if they need a full breakfast please make sure they arrive in plenty of time (we suggest 8.45 at the latest to make this a pleasurable experience).

Flu - Flu is a common infection in babies and children and can be very unpleasant for them. Children under the age of 5 have the highest hospital admission rates for flu compared to other age groups. Children aged 2 and 3 years old (on 31 August before flu vaccinations start in the autumn) are eligible for a free flu vaccination in the form of a nasal spray. This is usually given at the GP practice. For more useful information please contact your surgery.

Parent Chats - We will be inviting you in for a parent chat during November! Please remember we would always get in touch with you if we had anything worrying us about your child's development, and then offer the appropriate support.

Birthday Cake - although the children do love sharing their birthday cakes at nursery can you please check the ingredients, we ask that they do not come in if they contain nuts (please double check the ingredient's, we will have to check at the door and send home if it even contains traces). Our baby and toddler room cannot have chocolate cake due to the recommendations around babies not having chocolate in their diet, thank you for your anticipated support with this. We also have lots of children with dairy intolerances! We believe Asda do a great nut free and free from range. We do only give a small slice of cake so no need to but enormous ones (although the staff do like it when some is left over 😊).

Book swap and Coat recycling - please take advantage of our book swap and coat recycling in the porch, many children do use the book swap and enjoy having something new to read 😊 Reading stories to your little one provides an exciting way into worlds children could not otherwise visit and helps to develop their imagination. Looking at books also supports rich language development and helps to develop your child's brain! If you have an old (but good condition) coat that your little one has grown out of please do consider popping it on a peg in the porch for another family to take. If you are about to buy a new winter coat please check the pegs to see if there is a suitable one first 😊

Roof - the roof is now finished and the scaffolding will soon be removed. Your patience has been appreciated - especially the parents of our babies and toddlers while the room has been out of action. We cannot wait to get back upstairs 😊

Christmas - We will have Christmas parties on the last three afternoons before our Christmas closure, but if your child doesn't usually attend they will be invited to the Wednesday afternoon party (cost will be confirmed later for those who book as an extra). Watch this space for more information!

Harvest Festival - The Harvest Festival is celebrated around the world across many different faiths and cultures. It takes place at different times of the year in different countries, according to when the main harvest is for each country. In the USA, the Harvest Festival is known as Thanksgiving and is a national holiday in November every year!

Foodbanks rely on goodwill and support so as part of our Harvest Festival we are supporting Taunton Food bank and would like to provide donations of packaged foods. If you would like your child to bring in something from the list below they can proudly add it to our Harvest display on their arrival. The food bank needs: Coffee, tea, sugar, squash, Weetabix, cereals, spam, corned beef, tinned meat pies, tinned garden peas, carrots, mixed vegetables, tins of custard. Please check everything is in date. Items can be brought in during the week of September 25th. We will be planning lots of activities with the children to celebrate Harvest time such as leaf rubbing and farm play! The Harvest Festival is usually a time to share locally grown produce with those in need and celebrate with a big feast. Churches are often decorated with fruits and vegetables brought by parishioners, which is then donated to charity.

Week beginning Monday 30th October will be all about spiders and pumpkins - this is our take on Halloween which we feel can be too scary for our age group. During this week children can dress up (in whatever they like) with staff dressing up too, we will learn all about spiders and pumpkins!

Dates for the diary -

- **Harvest** - Week commencing September 25th
- **Spider & Pumpkin Week** - Oct 30th
- **Parent Chats** - Wednesday 15th November (6-7.30pm, **parents only please - no little ones!**) a form will go up in the porch during October to book!
- **Children in need** - Week commencing 13th November!
- **Book Share for toddler & preschool room** - November 22nd at 4.30pm (if it is your little ones normal day please pop in for a story or two)
- **Christmas Church Service** (just for Abacus!) - Wednesday 13th December - 6.15pm (30 minute children's service) at St Peters Church. The perfect way to all get together and start our Christmas celebrations. September school leavers and families are also welcome to join us - we would love to see you.
- **Christmas closure - Our last day is now Wednesday 20th** (not Thursday 21st) December 2023 and we will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2024! We are now having to close a day early as builders are coming in over the Christmas break and they needed an extra day - sorry for any inconvenience.
- **Baby room stay and play** - February 27th 4.30pm (pop in for a quick play at the end of the day - if it is your little ones usual day) more dates later in the year 😊
- **Red Nose Day** - Friday 17th March
- **Book Share for toddler & preschool room** - March 20th 4.30pm (if it is your little ones normal day please pop in for a story or two) more dates later in the year 😊
- **Pyjamarama** - May 2024!

Once again, thank you for your continued support

Claire, Shel and the amazing Abacus team

Support/Advice contact numbers;

You can give Mindline (Somerset) a call 24 hours/day, 7 days/week ;

<https://www.mindlinsomerset.org.uk/> 01823 276892

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

OFSTED: 0300 1231231

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

Somerset integrated domestic abuse services: 0800 694 9999

Men's advice line (domestic abuse): 0808 801 0327

Children's social care Somerset: 0300 123 2224

Our contact details: abacuschildrensnursery@outlook.com

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