



September 2022

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 (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 Claire & Shel in the office and we will do all we can to support this.

Safeguarding/SEND - Just a reminder that Shel is the Safeguarding Designated Lead and Amy is our SENCO at nursery, if you wish to discuss/raise any matter/concerns please speak to us, we are happy to help. Claire is the deputy lead for both roles. All staff are trained in both areas and receive regular updates.

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. When the weather cools please remember that due to Covid we still need to ensure we are ventilating the building so windows will be open over the winter, your child will need an extra layer to help keep them warm. 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. When flu comes round this autumn and winter more young children are likely to catch it than usual. This is because the Covid-19 restrictions also stopped flu and young children in particular won't have natural immunity from catching flu before. All 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 -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1087835/UKHSA-12388-protecting-your-child-against-flu-2022-2023.pdf

Lullaby Trust - Their website is very informative, they provide expert advice on safer sleep for babies so please take a look if you think it may help in your house at bedtime 😊
<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/>

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 😊

Book swap - please take advantage of our book swap in the porch, many children do use it 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!

Coat swap - we are introducing a coat swap! With increasing costs everywhere we thought this might help some of you out a little (and we love to reuse/recycle at Abacus). If you have a good/clean coat that you would like to pass on please pop it on the pegs just inside of the porch so that another parent can take it home and use for their little one! Children grow so quickly and coats are expensive so we hope this helps 😊

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

Christingle - We have also got in touch with a local church to arrange an Abacus Christingle (type) service, this will be at 5.30pm (for 30/40 minutes) on Thursday 15th December, we hope you can all make it! We feel this will be a lovely way to all get together and celebrate! (St Peter Church, Lyngford, Taunton). Please pop the date in your diary now as I know (from past experience while working in a local school) that Reverend Debbi Turley will make this a memorable event. We apologise that this would mean you would need to collect by 5.15 that evening if you wish to attend, we will remain open until 6pm for those of you who do not come. Extended families are welcome 😊

Dates for your diary:-

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 from October 3rd until October 7th. 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 24th 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!

Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper' week to take place week beginning the 5th December - more info to follow

Christmas Closure - we close on Thursday 22nd December and open again on Tuesday 3rd January. Details about Christmas parties to follow!

- Christmas Closure - we close at 6pm on Thursday 22nd December and open again on Tuesday 3rd January.
- Christmas Party dates - 21st & 22nd December
- Easter break - 7th to 10th April (closed)
- May Bank holidays - 1st & 29th (closed)
- School Leavers Party - August 31st

An extra big thank you for your anticipated continued support

Claire, Shel & the Team 😊

Our contact details: abacuschildrensnursery@outlook.com
01823 288681

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