



February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

**Staff** - We are very excited - Clare is returning 😊 The staff and children have really missed her and we are really excited to have her back with us! She will only be doing a few hours each week to start with and then will increase in time. Clare will be taking on a slightly different role now and will be offering extra adult led activities on three mornings such as story time, drama, art projects, story scribing and circle time activities!

We have more exciting news! Mia G has passed her level 3 in Early Years 😊 A huge congratulations, we know how hard you have worked Mia - You are a star!

**All About Me** - We will be sending out an 'All About Me' on Tapestry for you to complete so that we can learn more about your child's interests, likes, dislikes, needs etc. We use the information to ensure we are meeting the individual needs of your child while they are with us, they really are valuable to the staff team when planning our activities. They are also a great way to update us if anything has changed!

**Reports** - We are starting to pop the Winter reports across to Tapestry. These are not a lengthy report like you would get at school but a shorter feedback from your keyperson to let you know how your little one is doing at nursery. If you have any questions please get back to your keyperson or contact Claire/Shel in the office, we would be happy to help.

**Late collection** - just a reminder that we charge a £15 late fee for every 15 minutes that you are late collecting your child. If you do collect just before 6pm you will only get a brief feedback as staff leave at 6pm - Thank you for your support with this.

**Clothing** - Please remember your little one **will** get messy at nursery, we love to embrace messy play and engage the senses! It would be best to bring them to nursery in old clothing (including coats) so that they can enjoy themselves in the mud kitchen, painting, gloop etc

**Arriving at Abacus** - Please do ring the doorbell (even if you think you have been spotted by staff as we have one lady assigned to the door and they might not know you are here!) and remember you can wait in the porch! If the door is not answered within a minute please do ring again. If you arrive and another parent is in front of you it might be wise to check they have rung the bell just in case they haven't 😊

**Menu** - We will be removing ham from our Menu due to the World Health organizations recommendations regarding processed meats; adults having less than 2 slices a day due to being carcinogenic. We appreciate that this was first announced several years ago now but there has been recent updates and discussions regarding the impact processed meats could have on children so we feel it is safer to take this off of our menu. We recently tweaked the menu and are reintroducing fish which is very exciting! Please take a look on the website 😊

**Medical Care Plans/Allergies** - We have recently sent home new medical care plans for children with intolerances and allergies to check that our records are up to date, could we ask that they are returned within the 28 days as per County guidance. If anything changes please update us so that we can change paperwork and ensure we are fully meeting the needs of your child. We now have 16 children (almost a quarter of our children) with allergies/intolerances which is the highest number ever so we would appreciate your support with this as it does restrict our menu.

**Transitions** - We of course have children transitioning to primary school later in the year. We know that any transition can be viewed as a difficult time but we know from experience that by working together to ensure your child is ready for their transition, with a consistent and positive approach it can be a happy time for everyone. A factsheet will be added to Tapestry soon so please look out for this and get back to us if you have any further questions. We also have a school transition meeting (parents only) for those of you who would like to chat further about this. If you will be attending the meeting on March 6th please email the office to confirm before the end of Feb - Thank you 😊

**Feedback slips** - We sent out Parent Feedback slips a few weeks ago, please return yours this week if you haven't and you wish to tell/share something. The feedback so far has been very positive - Thank you

**Website** - We are making small changes to some of our policies on the website, please take a look. We also have other helpful information on the website that might be of interest to you, such as our menu, guide to illnesses, teeth cleaning and weaning info. We regularly add bits so it is always worth having a look!

**Meet the team** - We hope you enjoyed the meet the team month on Facebook during January! We thought it would be nice for you to find out a little bit about us as we find out lots about you 😊 Please take a look if you missed it!

**30 Hours Childcare** (Early Years Entitlement EYE) - Please can we remind you to reapply every 3 months. If there are changes to your entitlement, or you do not reconfirm please let us know as this could impact your invoice! All children who will be starting funding in April should receive an email soon!

**September fees** - Last year we only made a small increase in fees to support everyone after Covid. However, due to rises in wages (minimum wage) and utility bills we are having to make a rise more in line with inflation and the cost of living this year. This increase will help us to maintain our outstanding provision. Please see below for Fees from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 -

## Abacus Nursery - Fees April 2023 - April 2024

Session	Under 2 years	2 years +
Morning (8-1pm)	36.90	35.86
Afternoon (1-6pm)	33.44	32.40
Daily (8-6pm)	65.73	63.58
Full time	308.94	298.43

**Funded children's rates to be confirmed** (this will be popped onto Tapestry as soon as possible but we are waiting for new details from County)

**September onwards** - We are almost full so if you wanted to increase please let us know as soon as possible! If your little one will be moving onto funding in September or January and you will want extra sessions it would be a good idea to try and book the sessions now or you might be disappointed! Some days are already full in both rooms.

**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** - With increasing costs everywhere we introduced this last year hoping that it this might help some of you out a little (and we love to reuse/recycle at Abacus). Reminder - If you have a good/clean child's 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! With children's winter coats costing £25-30 (on average) we feel this is a good saving, and little ones outgrow clothing so quickly! 😊 We have considered extending this to a monthly clothes swap so please let us know your thoughts! We have popped some good quality second hand shoes beside the coat swap, we have so many spare here that these are free to a good home!

**Naming our rooms!** - We feel this might make transitions a little more exciting! We are considering tadpoles and Froglets (or Frogs), Seedlings and Saplings, Caterpillars and Butterflies but are open to suggestions! We have also looked at naming after something locally or associated with nursery! We will keep you updated 😊

### Dates for the diary -

- **Coffee morning (11<sup>th</sup> February 10am)** - Please let us know if you will be joining us before Friday (3<sup>rd</sup>) so that we can cater for everyone 😊 So far we only have 5 families confirm (out of 70) they will be attending so we may cancel if we do not get enough interest.
- **School Transition meeting** - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 6-7pm (Parents only please)
- **Parent Chats** - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March (6-7.30pm, parents only please)
- **Spring book share for our toddler and preschool children** - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April between 4.30pm and 5.15pm (please arrive at 4.30pm if you wish to join in!) we are

inviting you in (sorry but limited to one adult) to share a book (or two) and have a drink/biscuit with your little one (if it is there normal nursery day).

- **Easter break** - 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April (closed)
- **Extra Bank Holiday** - 8<sup>th</sup> May
- **May Bank Holidays** - 1st & 29th (closed)
- **Photographer** - 8th June (morning) If you wish to bring your child in (if not your normal day) please email the office 😊
- **Garden book share for our toddler and preschool children** - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July between 4.30pm and 5.15pm (please arrive at 4.30pm if you wish to join in!) we are inviting you in (sorry but limited to one adult) to share a book (or two) and have a drink/biscuit with your little one (if it is there normal nursery day).
- **Summer Bank Holiday** - 28<sup>th</sup> August (closed)
- **School Leavers Party** (and last day) - 1.45-4.15pm (parents invited in between 3.30-4.15pm) - August 31<sup>st</sup>
- **Christmas closure** - Our last day is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and we will reopen on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024!

Thank you for your continued support, as always it is hugely appreciated,

Claire, Shel and the Team 😊

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

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

Somerset Coronavirus Helpline: 0300 790 6275

NSPCC: [0808 800 5000](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

OFSTED: 0300 1231231

Preventing Radicalisation & extremism in Somerset: [prevent@somerset.gov.uk](mailto: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