



March 2022

Dear Parents,

The children have had a wonderful month at Abacus! All of the children loved Shrove Tuesday, mixing their own dough and eating delicious pancakes! 😊 Please take a look at our Facebook page and your child's Tapestry for regular updates and photos!

The local authority has asked us to forward the following link, it is informative but we also have our own factsheet on our website to support you in looking after your child's teeth. We have various factsheets/guides on our website so please do take a look 😊 -

www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/taking-care-of-childrens-teeth

Music Bugs - Is moving to a Tuesday afternoon from April! We know some of you will be delighted as a new group of children will get to experience Lianne's music, the children love her visits.

Staff - The staff team have had a busy month, we have had ladies updating their first aid and safeguarding. Lisa and Mia G are also enjoying some Curiosity Approach training that they are planning on cascading to the team in our next staff meeting! Amy has completed her SENCO lead training too!

New Video Monitors - these have been introduced as an extra safeguarding measure, they do not record video but mean that children and staff can be observed in our sleep rooms at all times.

Key persons - Please remember that all staff care and nurture for all children on each floor and all staff are familiar with all children in the nursery due to how we run our days so if your child has a change in key person please do not worry. Apart from the parent chats and Tapestry updates you will not be aware of any change and of course the children are not even aware who their key person is so there will be no change to the high level of care they receive.

Clothing for all weather! - With the weather warming up a little on some days please remember to pack suitable clothing, it's that tricky time of year where it's warm one day and really cold the next! We appreciate your support with this.

September hours - We are busy booking new children in for September so if you are thinking of changing your hours in the Autumn term please can you let us know as soon as possible (via email). We do need a full calendar months' notice for changes! We are already looking very busy on some days in September which is great, but we would hate for you to get in touch to add sessions/days in July/August for us to be full.

September fees - The directors have been advised due to the large increase in the minimum wage and the impact this has on staff wages to increase fees by 7.5% from April. However, due to the rise in living costs (bills/food etc) we have made the decision to increase by just under 3%. We hope this smaller increase will be more manageable for everyone. Moving forward we will be reviewing our fees in February/March each year and then changing fees for April 1st.

Abacus Nursery - Fees April 2022 - April 2023

| Session | Under 2 years | 2 years + |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Morning (8-1pm) | £33.55 | £32.60 |
| Afternoon (1-6pm) | £30.40 | £29.45 |
| Daily (8-6pm) | £59.75 | £57.80 |
| Full time | £280.85 | £271.30 |

30 Hours Childcare (Early Years Entitlement EYE) - Please can we remind you to reapply every 3 months. Those of who you whose code runs out at the end of March will need to renew your code to continue receiving the EYE deduction on your fees. If any child starting their 30 hours would like to increase their hours we do only have a few sessions left!

Invoices - Please remember to review your standing order for April fees as this is a new term! You should receive your new invoice next week. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Parent chats - We are offering parent chats on Thursday 14th April between 6.30 and 7.30pm, if you would like a quick catch up with your child's key person please email us and we can arrange it. We appreciate for many of you that the regular Tapestry chats and end of day feedback, will be enough but if you would like a more in depth conversation please let us know and we will book you in for one! Every parent who would like a catch up will get a 10 minute time slot given to them (similar to primary schools). You will need to email before Friday 11th of March to book - Thank you 😊

Easter - We will be having our yearly Easter bonnet parades during the week prior to Easter from the 11th April. Children can make their Easter bonnets at home (if they wish) and bring them in to wear. Please do not go to any expense - its more about the taking part and home made delights! It is lovely to see our children grow in confidence as they march around the nursery each day to music for the staff and rest of the children to see, it does wonders for

their personal, social and emotional development. If you need some help with making a hat please let us know. The week will come to a close with an Easter tea on Thursday 12th April.

Easter closure - April Friday 15th April & Monday 18th April - Enjoy your time at home everyone 😊

New Menu - We have created our Summer Menu, this will start on April 1st. We have popped it onto Tapestry and will be trialling it from March 21st. It has some lovely new additions such as frozen yogurt bark, black bean tacos and gazpacho. Let us know if you have any good ideas as we like to try new dishes 😊

One of our Mums has been in touch and asked us to share with you that her daughter has a lot less coughs and colds when she has vitamins every day (particularly asking us to share the importance of vitamin D)

She has recommended the NHS Healthy Start drops (a nice pear flavour) as they contain vits A,C and D. Her daughter loves them dropped into her yogurt. You can get them quite cheap in Superdrug and some families are eligible to get them free. <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/baby/baby-vitamins/>

Thank you for sharing this with us 😊

If looking for something different (with more vitamins) I can personally recommend the Wild Nutrition range, they are high grade, food grown supplements all ethically & sustainably sourced. Although they are capsules, so drops for your little ones are probably easier! These are suitable from 3+

[Food-Grown Daily Multi Nutrient | Created For Children | Wild Nutrition](#)

Dates for your diary:-

Pyjama Day - **Wednesday 9th March** - to raise funds for families in Ukraine we will be holding a pyjama day where we will all wear our pyjamas, slippers (please bring shoes for outside) and dressing gowns! The children will just be told we are fundraising for children who live a long way away, that they need money to buy toys and food for their families. Any donations big or small will be gratefully received and sent to the Unicef Ukrainian appeal. Unicef have stated that the whole child population of Ukraine, 7.5 million children, are now at risk as the conflict continues to escalate.

Red nose day - Friday 18th March we will be organising activities for the children throughout the day and collecting donations. The preschool children have asked if we could do fancy dress on the day 😊 but of course children are welcome to wear fancy dress all week!

Photographer visiting - Monday 6th June 2021 (am)

Graduation - Wednesday 31st August we will be holding a graduation event and are presently discussing options, more info to follow!

Thank you all so much for your continued support,

Claire, Shel and the Abacus Team 😊

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 this winter; <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 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