



December 2022

Dear Parents, Carers & Families

**OFSTED** - A huge thank you to the parents who took the time to write something for the Ofsted inspector, this was very appreciated and your kind words were shared with the team. Unfortunately, we still cannot share our results/report with you all yet but as soon as we are allowed we will email this to all of you and pop it onto Tapestry, it really shouldn't be much longer!

**Staffing** - We are delighted to welcome Sophie M to the team! Sophie is starting her Early Years journey with us as an apprentice. She will mainly be based in the Toddler & Preschool room 😊 If you see her please say a big hello 😊

**Music Bugs** - please remember that this is moving to a Friday morning after Christmas! This means that a new group of children can enjoy this fabulous session for the next 2/3 months. We will look to change the session again next year so that everyone hopefully (over time) will get a turn to experience Lianne's music!

**Forest School** - We are so pleased to inform you that we have confirmed our arrangement with Aspen Court and will be able to return once a week to use their gardens for Forest School! We will be returning in January! The preschool children who have permission to leave the setting will be venturing to Aspen Court on a Thursday morning (possibly alternate weeks). Two practitioners will go with them and a maximum of 8 children will go at a time. Mia G will continue to run some outdoors/forest type activities at nursery so if your child isn't in on a Thursday please don't worry 😊 On days that it is very cold/wet we will risk assess on the day and make a decision as to whether we should go or remain at nursery!

### **Forest School and the outdoor learning environment -**

Children learn best through play, physical exploration and their senses. They experience these in abundance as they play outdoors. It harvests children's natural curiosity and motivation to learn. This is why we love Forest School and outside play 😊

What is special about being outdoors?

- Openness gives a sense of physical freedom - the ceiling is the sky!
- Senses are heightened - we can smell flowers, grass and see nature's colours change.

- The weather changes daily which provides a great natural source for learning, for example the rain affects the soil, plants and insects and the sun creates shadows!

What can children do outdoors more easily than indoors?

- Move about more easily - children learn about themselves and their environment through physical exploration. They can use their whole body without limitations.
- Be physically active - they can take part in vigorous physical activity, challenge themselves to their limits, run as fast as they can, and take risks. This will improve the workings of their hearts and lungs and develop their muscles. Exercise can raise the mood of a child and their support their wellbeing/self-esteem .
- Create imaginative scenarios on a large and realistic scale - running to put out a fire, jumping across the river, taking dolls for long walks.

**Change in Bank Details** - We have a new bank account so please make sure you change your standing order for January - New invoices will be sent home in the middle of December to give you time to amend everything!

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

## **CHRISTMAS -**

**Christmas Lunch** will be enjoyed on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - we will have a traditional roast dinner with all of the extras, followed by a novelty pudding! If you wish to book this day as an extra please email the office or give us a call (we have very limited space left in the toddler & preschool room).

**Christmas displays** - These have been created with the children and have gone up this week! We hope you enjoyed the photographs on our Facebook page, they really are fabulous and the children (and team) are very proud of them so if you haven't seen them yet please take a look!

## **Songs we are singing/learning -**

When Santa got stuck up the chimney.

Father Christmas, Father Christmas, he got stuck...(to the tune of Frère Jacques)

Jingle bells

Christmas pudding, Christmas pudding, steaming hot...(to the tune of Frère Jacques)

Twinkle Twinkle little star

Away in a manger

I'm a little pine tree (to tune of I'm a little teapot)

We wish you a merry Christmas.

We are also reading The Christmas Story and have the traditional dressing up clothes out (alongside other Christmas characters/stories), the children really enjoy being Mary and Joseph, the kings, shepherds, cows...

**Christmas Raffle** - We will be doing our Christmas raffle again this year, last year the children loved this! We will draw winners at tea times during the Christmas parties. It was lovely to see their little faces light up when they won a prize so if you have anything suitable to donate please could you bring it in before **December 10<sup>th</sup>** We will be selling raffle tickets throughout December.

**Aspen Court Children/Residents Christmas party** - Aspen Court are holding a party for our preschool children (who are in that day) on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm-3pm! Two staff will take children and stay with them. Another staff member will help with walking up and back! We are sure both the children and residents will have lots of fun 😊

**Christmas Carol church service** - This will be at 5.30pm (for 30/40 minutes) on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, we hope you can all make it! We feel this will be a lovely way to all get together and celebrate Christmas (St Peter Church, Lyngford, Taunton). We apologise that this would mean you would probably 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 wish to come. Extended families and friends are welcome 😊

**Christmas party** - As mentioned in our last newsletter we are planning on having two party afternoons at Abacus this year in both our Baby room and Toddler/pre-school room.

**Christmas Cards** - A quick reminder that instead of writing Christmas cards for staff and children this year we will be sending out stars (this week) for children to decorate. Please return it with any message you may wish to add on the back and a small contribution for charity (we suggest 50p or £1). Your decorated star needs to be given to a staff member (with your contribution) we then share the messages with the children during circle time before hanging them on the tree! This year we are fundraising for **Charlies Gift** ([www.charliesgift.co.uk](http://www.charliesgift.co.uk)) this charity has a very close link to a staff member so we are proud to be supporting them. We will also add half of the proceeds from our Christmas raffle to the charity pot! The other half of our raffle money will be spent on craft resources for the children at Abacus 😊

**Dates for the diary** -

- **Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper' week** - To take place week beginning the 5<sup>th</sup> December - suggested donation 50p/£1
- **Aspen Court Children/Residents Christmas party** - for our preschool children (who are in that day) - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm-3.15pm! Two staff will take children and stay with them. Another staff member will help with walking up and back!
- **Christmas Carol church service** - This will be at 5.30pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at St Peters Church, Lyngford, Taunton. Extended families welcome!
- **Christmas Lunch** - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

- **Christmas Party dates** - 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> December (2-4.15pm)
- **Christmas Closure** - we close on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December (our last day) and open again on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.
- **Coffee Morning** - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 10-11.30 - People all over the UK host their own Coffee Mornings to support the Macmillan Trust, we have decided this year to hold our own event to help raise money for this very worthy charity. We have several staff members and families who have faced the struggles of a cancer diagnosis so the team are delighted to be able to help raise funds - pop the date in your diary and join us for a slice of cake!
- **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** - 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) - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April.
- **Easter break** - 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April (closed)
- **Extra Bank Holiday** - 8<sup>th</sup> May
- **May Bank Holidays** - 1<sup>st</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> (closed)
- **Garden book share for our toddler and preschool children** - 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) - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July
- **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>

The team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fabulous Christmas. We know it is a truly magical time of year for little ones so please add lots of photos to your Tapestry accounts, we do love to see them. We hope the New Year brings you all good health and happiness 😊 Enjoy yourselves and take care!

Thank you for your continued support,

Claire, Shel and the 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; <https://www.mindinsomerset.org.uk/> 01823 276892

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

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: [0808 2000 247](https://www.ndah.org.uk/)

OFSTED: [0300 1231231](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/)

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