



February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

**New Uniform-** We are super excited to have a new Abacus Uniform 😊 We hope have all now had a change to see us wearing it, and love it as much as we do!

**Concept Photography-** We have our photographers returning again this year for the morning on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June. If your child already attend nursery on a Tuesday morning, they will automatically have their photos taken, but if they don't and you would like them to have a photo or would like them to have their photo with a sibling who doesn't attend, then please pop an email to the office and we will give you a time slot.

**Staff** - Jordyn has complete her SENCO level 3 course.

Sophie has completed her 2 day SG course so is now the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Michelle, our new Baby Room Supervisor has now started, so please say a big hello to her if you see her 😊

We also have Abbie starting with us as a part time member of staff. She is level 3 qualified and has a passion for early years!

**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!

**FUNDING** - We have now sent out emails to those parents who will be able to apply for funding for their 2 year olds, to receive it from April 2024. Please do this as soon as possible, and let us know as soon as you have received your code.

We are aware that some of you are waiting for a letter with a temporary code, again, as soon as you have received this letter/code, please let us know.

We have various forms for you to sign here at nursery, so please have your unique code (when received), and the national insurance number of the parent claiming ready.

If you have any further questions, please give us a call or pop us an email.

[Apply for free childcare if you're working - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

**30 Hours Childcare** - If your child is eligible for the '30 hours' funding from April now that they are 3, we will again have some forms for you to sign, so please have your unique code, and the national insurance number of the parent claiming ready.

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 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 have now sent across 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 Sophie/Jordyn in the office, we are always be happy to help.

**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 😊

**Toilet Training** - We have been sent this helpful toilet training website to share with you all- [Toilet Training - Busy Bees \(busybeeschildcare.co.uk\)](http://busybeeschildcare.co.uk)

If you are thinking of toilet training your little one, please have a chat with one of the ladies and we will always be happy to support you with this.

**Tooth Brushing** - Tooth decay remains very common in young children. Tooth decay can be very painful, cause problems eating/sleeping and stop children attending early years settings. There is a requirement within the Early Years Foundation Stage to promote good oral health to children and supervised toothbrushing programmes are an effective way to do this. To make sure more children get to benefit from taking part in supervised toothbrushing programmes a new website has been developed, as part of a national research project, to include resources needed by all those involved in getting toothbrushing programmes set-up and running well. Please find the link here: [HOME | BRUSH Toolkit \(supervisedtoothbrushing.com\)](http://supervisedtoothbrushing.com)

**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 😊

**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 April 8th please email the office to confirm before the end of March - Thank you 😊

**September onwards** - We are almost full every day 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 you might 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.

**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** - 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! 😊

**Dates for the diary -**

- **Baby room stay and play** - February 27<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm-5.15pm (pop in for a quick play at the end of the day - if it is your little ones usual day) 😊
- **World Book Day** - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March (Children can dress up as their favourite book characters all week)
- **Red Nose Day** - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March
- **Book Share for toddler & preschool room** - March 20<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm (if it is your little ones normal day please pop in for a story or two) 😊

- **School Transition meeting** - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 6-7pm (Parents of school leavers only please- no children)
- **Parent Chats** - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (6-7.30pm, parents only please)
- **Easter break** - 29<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> April (closed)
- **Pyjamarama** - May 2024!
- **Photographer** - 11th June (morning) If you wish to bring your child in or bring a sibling along (if not your normal day) please email the office 😊
- **May Bank holidays** - 6<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> (closed)
- **Garden book share for our toddler and preschool children** - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July
- **Baby room summer stay and play** - 20<sup>th</sup> August 4.30pm-5.15pm (pop in for a quick play at the end of the day - if it is your little ones usual day) 😊
- **Summer Bank holiday** - 26<sup>th</sup> August (closed)
- **School Leavers Party** (and last day) - 1.45-4.15pm (parents invited in between 3.30-4.15pm) - August 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Christmas Church Service**- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December @ 6.15pm. St Peters Church, Eastwick Road, Taunton.
- **Christmas 2024**- Our last day will be Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024, and we will re-open on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

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

Sophie, Jordyn 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