



November 2023

Dear Parents, Carers & Families

Staffing - We are delighted to inform you that we now have a Toddler & Pre-School room supervisor, Chloe, who I'm sure a few of you have already met 😊 She has worked in early years for 6 years and has lots of experience, she is extremely passionate about the curiosity approach and is going to implement some elements of this approach into our day to day running which is super exciting!

More positive news, we have also got a new cook, Fiona. She is very passionate about cooking healthy nutritious meals for children, and is already enjoying cooking in our kitchen and preparing yummy meals for the children to eat.

We also have a new lady called Tamzin starting in 2 weeks, she is currently studying on a Foundation Degree and is super excited to start at Abacus, she will be based in the Baby Room 😊

Mia P has also decided it is time to take a break from being at Abacus full time and spend some time with her family, but she will be staying on our relief team which is lovely as you will still get to see her regularly, she is looking forward to coming back to see everyone 😊

Forest School - We have been really enjoying our forest school sessions at Aspen Court so far, we have enjoyed looking at the guinea pigs, meeting some reptiles, exploring the forest school area, learning about road safety while walking to forest school, and best of all have all enjoyed sharing a hot chocolate and biscuit with the residents at the end of our sessions.

Clothing - The temperature has definitely dropped and it is feeling a little colder. We want to continue enjoying outdoor play and the benefits your children get from fresh air and extra space to run around etc. Please make sure they have adequate clothing - e.g. Cardigan/sweatshirt over their vest and t shirt (long sleeved) and top then a thick winter coat. Please also remember that due to Covid we have to keep our windows open for ventilation so make sure your little one has plenty of layers on to keep warm.

Please do not forget to use our **recycling point for coats** 😊 drop off an old one that is in good condition for another family to use, and please do all help yourself to one if you need a bigger size for your little one!

Tapestry - Thank you to all of you who are contributing to Tapestry. The staff love to see photographs of what you, as a family, have been doing at the weekends and in the evenings. The children love it when we talk about seeing their adventures away from Abacus 😊
This month it has been lovely to see you all decorating pumpkins and dressing up for Spider & Pumpkin Week!

Also a thank you to those who have filled out their 'All about me' for their child, if you haven't had time yet you can find it on your child's tapestry. It is so lovely to have an insight into their little lives 😊

Calling Nursery - Could we ask that you try not to call between 11.40 and 12.30 as management sit with the children for lunch. If you do call at this time we might not hear!

Flu Nasal- We have been asked to share this link with you all, it is information about why it is important to protect your children against the flu with the flu nasal offered to all children aged 2 or 3.

[Protecting your child against flu; Information for parents and carers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Wet wipes & Nappies - could we ask that you always have a spare packet of wet wipes and nappies in your child's Abacus bag (if they use them!) so that we can top up your child's supplies. We have recently noticed that children are running out and although we make sure we have some here for emergencies we keep using all of ours and have on occasions struggled! If you do not have any here it does make it difficult for the ladies so we will ask you to pop to the local shop - thank you for your anticipated support with this 😊

Illness - If your child spikes a temperature while with us we may have to administer a dose of emergency Calpol, if they had some before arriving that we have not been told about this could result in an overdose and we will presume it is safe to administer emergency Calpol. If they do need to go home we would ask that you try to ensure they are collected as quickly as possible. If contacted because your little one is poorly please try to collect them (or arrange for someone else to collect them) within 30 minutes. Can we also please add that if your child needs regular Calpol to help them feel well enough for nursery then they really should be at home resting. Although we can give lots of cuddles, nursery is a much busier environment and when your little one is under the weather this can be overwhelming - Thank you for your anticipated support with this.

CHRISTMAS -

Christmas Jumper Week- Staff and Children are all welcome to wear Christmas jumpers w.c. 4th December to raise money for Save the Children. - Suggested donation of 50p/£1 would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Lunch will be enjoyed on Friday 15th 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 extremely limited space).

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 12th.

We will be selling raffle tickets from December 4th Lots of prizes for children would be wonderful and it really does only need to be something small! Suggested items - a bottle of bubbles, book, cuddly toy, toy car, stickers, colouring book!

Christingle - This will be at 6.15pm (for 30/40 minutes) on Wednesday 13th 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). Extended families are welcome 😊

Christmas displays - We will again have our traditional advent tree downstairs. This is used to support number recognition, as well as being very exciting. The ladies are already busy planning our display boards. I am sure the children will love creating them and we will make sure that we add photographs to Tapestry and Facebook for you to enjoy.

Aspen Court Christmas Dates - Aspen Court Care Home (where we attend Forest School) have been in touch to invite us to their Christmas events. They have said that they would love for some of our children and their parents/families to attend :)

The dates are:

Saturday 16th December 2pm - 3pm: They have Santa coming to visit them and give out chocolate coins, you are all invited to join.

Thursday 21st December from 2pm: They have a 'Snow Day' with snow machines and entertainment, again you are all invited to join them

We would love if some of you could make it, but appreciate the lead up to Christmas can be a busy time! If you do go along we would love to see some photos on Tapestry :)

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. The parties will be held on Dec 19th & 20th between 2-4.15 pm. We will play games and enjoy some festive songs/dancing and of course have a delicious party tea. We hope Father Christmas will visit with a little gift for each child. If your child does not normally attend Nursery on these days, they are invited to join us on the Wednesday 20th (no space on the Tuesday, and limited on Wednesday) afternoon at a cost of £12. Please email the office before 1st December to let us know you wish to book this, we will not be able to take booking after this date.

Christmas Cards - Instead of writing Christmas cards for staff and children this year we will be sending out stars 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 Love Musgrove (www.lovemusgrove.org.uk) This charity is close to the hearts of everyone at Abacus and we are sure many of you have connections with Musgrove in your own way. For more details on the charity please follow the link. 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 -

- **Parent Chats** - Wednesday 15th November (6-7.30pm, parents only please if you have booked a slot)
- **Children in need** - Spotty Week! 13th November - All children can wear spots if they wish and we will be fundraising all week - suggested donation 50p/£1 😊
- **Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper' week** - To take place week beginning the 4th December - suggested donation 50p/£1
- **Christingle church service** - This will be at 6.15pm on Wednesday 13th December at St Peters Church, Lyngford, Taunton. Extended families welcome!
- **Christmas Lunch** - Friday 15th December
- **Christmas Party dates** - 19th & 20th December (2-4.15pm)
- **Christmas Closure** - we close on Wednesday 20th December and open again on Tuesday 2nd January.
- **Parent Chats** - Wednesday 10th April 2024 (6-7.30pm, parents only please)
- **Easter break** - 29th to 1st April (closed)
- **May Bank holidays** - 6th & 27th (closed)
- **Summer Bank holiday** - 26th August (closed)
- **School Leavers Party** (and last day) - 1.45-4.15pm (parents invited in between 3.30-4.15pm) - August 30th

Thank you for your continued support,
Sophie, Jordyn and the team 😊

P.S. All requests for donations are of course optional!

Our contact details: abacuschildrensnursery@outlook.com
01823 288681

NSPCC: [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247)

OFSTED: [0300 1231231](tel:03001231231)

Preventing Radicalisation & extremism in Somerset: 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)