October 2026

Dear Parents,

The children have been enjoying many exciting Autumn activities, they have been painting, printing, loving lots of sensory experiences and will soon be embracing our Spider and Pumpkin week! 😊

Staffing news – Michelle has updated her paediatric 1st Aid training this month, and enjoyed refreshing her first aid skills.

Sadly Gemma will be leaving us at the end of October. She has to put her family commitments first so will be doing this moving forward. The good news is that she will be staying on our bank staff team so you will still see her around from time to time 😊

Winter Menu – We will now be started our winter menu on Monday 12th October. You can view both our Summer (will be updated again next year) and Winter Menu's on our Abacus Website for any parents that wish to take a look.

Macmillan Coffee Morning- Our coffee morning was a HUGE success, and we have so far raised an amazing £242.80 for the charity. Staff, parents, children and extended family all enjoyed coming together to enjoy a slice of cake and a drink at nursery 😊

The donation box is in the porch, so if you wish to still donate we will leave it out until the end of the week.

Can you leave us a Google Review? - We are currently in the process of trying to raise our Google Profile. If you are able, would it be possible for you to leave us a Google Review? This will really help to raise our profile and also let new prospective parents know about us as a nursery :)

New Instagram and TikTok pages- We now have an Abacus Nursery Instagram and TikTok page. Please give us a 'Like, Follow & Share' to raise our profile and to get our page seen and known- thank you!

New Instagram Page: Abacus Nursery Instagram

New TikTok Page: Abacus Nursery TikTok

Winter coats – Winter is nearly upon us so your child will need to come in a warm winter coat each day, even if you come by car (and they cannot wear in car seat) as we go outside every

day, whatever the weather. If your child is going in a car seat when they leave we will not be putting their coats on as it is recommended that children do not wear big winter coats in car seats.

Open Morning- We are having an open morning for new prospective parents on 10th November from 9.30am-11am. During this time Lianne from Music Bugs will be here and will also be running her sessions. If you have any friends/family that you could invite along to have a look around Abacus, please pass the message on. We also have a poster (below) on our social media pages to promote this event 😊

Further safety advice in car seats - It has been documented that the average child's puffy coat can add several inches of slack between your child and the harness straps (although this is not really noticeable until the seatbelt is put under pressure and compressed). In a collision, the coat could become compressed and could allow a child to be flung forward, or even ejected from the seat entirely. Also when the car gets warm, it is easy for your child/baby to overheat when wearing a thick coat.

Please also remember that the UK law dictates that a child must use a child car seat until they're 12-years-old or 135cm tall, whichever comes first.

Please can you also please provide a named winter hat and pair of gloves that can stay nursery for the winter months!

Applying for Schools- We have had a message from Somerset Council asking us to inform parents that you can now apply for you child school place, if they are starting school in September 2025. All information is on this link: [Apply to start school for the first time (somerset.gov.uk)]

Spider & Pumpkin Week- Week beginning Monday 26th October will be all about spiders and pumpkins – this is our take on 'Halloween' which we feel can be too scary for our age group. During this week children can dress up (in whatever they like) with staff dressing up too, we will learn all about spiders and pumpkins!

Children in Need- Week commencing 9th November! All children can wear spots if they wish and we will be fundraising all week – suggested donation £1 😊

Parent Chats – We are offering parent chats on November 11th between 6pm and 7.30pm! If you would like a quick catch up with your child's key person please choose a time slot and add your name to the form in the porch (form to go out soon) 😊 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 this is your opportunity.

Christmas Jumper Week- Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper' week to take place w.c. the 7th December. We will be wearing Christmas jumpers for the whole week and suggest a donation of £1 to go towards Save the Children.

Christmas Parties- We will have Christmas parties on the last Thursday (17th) & Friday (18th) afternoons before our Christmas closure, if your child doesn't usually attend on these sessions they will be invited to the Friday afternoon party (cost will be confirmed later for those who book as an extra). Watch this space for more information!

Christingle – This year our Christingle will be on Wednesday 16th December @ 6.15pm for 30/40 minutes at our local church (St Peter Church, Lyngford, Taunton)- we hope you can all make it! We feel this will be a lovely way to all get together and celebrate! Extended families are welcome 😊

Dates for the diary –

- **Spider & Pumpkin Week** – W.C 26th October
- **Children in need** – Week commencing 9th November
- **Parent Chats** – Tuesday 11th November (6-7.30pm, **parents only please – no little ones!**) a form will go up in the porch during October to book!
- **Winter book share for our toddler and preschool children** – Wednesday 18th November 4.30-5.15pm
- **Christmas Jumper Week** – w.c. 7th December
- **Christmas Church Service-** 16th December 2026 @ 6.15pm (Everyone welcome, including extended family)
- **Christmas party dates-** 17th & 18th December- More info to follow!

- **Christmas 2026 closure:** Our last day will be Monday 21st December 2026, and we will re-open on Monday 4th January 2027
- **Baby room stay and play** – Thursday 11th February 2027
- **World Book day** – Thursday 4th March 2027
- **Red Nose Day** – March 2027 (Date to be confirmed)
- **Book Share for toddler & preschool room** – Wednesday 17th March 2027
- **Easter Break** – 26th to 29th March (CLOSED)
- **Pyjamarama** – May 2027 (Date to be confirmed)
- **May Bank Holidays** – 3rd & 31st May (CLOSED)
- **School leavers Party/Graduation** – Friday 27th August
- **August Bank Holiday** – 30th August (CLOSED)

Please remember if you ever need a chat let us know!

Kind regards,

Sophie, Jordyn and the team 😊

Support/Advice contact numbers;
You can give Mindline (Somerset) a call 24 hours/day, 7 days/week;
https://www.mindlinsomerset.org.uk/ 01823 276892
NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
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

Our contact details: abacuschildrensnursery@outlook.com
01823 288681