



April 2022

Dear Parents,

The children have had a fabulous time enjoying the sunshine and snow at nursery! We hope you have all enjoyed the photos on Tapestry and on our Facebook page 😊

Sun cream and sunshine - we provide sun cream (Factor 50) for your child to have applied at nursery when it is sunny/warm (unless you tell us differently). If your child is prone to allergic reactions/has very sensitive skin and you wish to provide your own, please provide this asap. Please hand to a member of staff to be stored at nursery, paperwork will need to be completed (it cannot be left in your child's nursery bag and come backwards and forwards). However, we ask for your co-operation in applying sun cream prior to nursery so we are not held up getting outside first thing. We reapply after lunch on sunny days but as you can imagine it can take a very long time to correctly apply sun cream to all of the children so your support in the morning is very appreciated. As the weather has started to warm up please remember sun hats and we ask that children do not wear strappy tops (so that shoulders are covered). If you wish for your child to wear sunglasses they would need to have the strap to secure them, however we do have plenty of shade in the garden so they shouldn't be needed (we cannot guarantee that if taken off they will remain safe!). Shoes should have backs on them (not flip flops) as the children love to ride the bikes etc and flip flops do seem to cause accidents.

Staff Training - During March eight staff members have completed in house training on Exploring Outstanding Practice! We looked at children as individuals; how to meet their changing needs, differentiation and how to help them thrive. During April we will have an in house training morning on Phonics and the Curiosity approach 😊 Sophie has also completed the adult first aid at work course as part of her medical officer role. Finally, Lisa has completed a River Bear Yoga course and will be taking on the role of supporting children's wellbeing at nursery.

Planning Changes (New EYFS) - We have made a few tweaks to our planning after reflecting on the first 6 months of the new curriculum. From April 1st we will be having four themes that cover the year; Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer. The new set themes will allow staff to cover many topics! For example - Spring will cover; growth, new animals, Easter, lifecycles, flowers, insects, patterns in nature, frogs, ponds, farming, tractors/combine harvesters, planting, light/rainbows and colour...! Summer will cover topics such as; the beach, under the sea, sunshine, holidays (the world), summer sports, RNLI, Mountain rescue, hot/heat

(sensory), keeping pets cool (vets), keeping ourselves cool, airplanes/ferries/hot air balloons, deserts, sports events, festivals...

When we start a new season staff will now have to assess where each of their key children are and add a next step to the back of the goal sheet. This next step should be an area where your key child need a little extra additional support, or be an area that they do not often engage with, so we do not often observe them developing in that area. We believe this will help staff to track your child's needs better and support their development further. Any questions please get in touch 😊 Your child's keyperson will share the next step with you on Tapestry!

The directors thought this link might be helpful -

<https://www.employersforchildcare.org> it provides information about tax free childcare, vouchers etc. We did put a post on our Facebook page recently to let you know that only a quarter of eligible parents claim tax free childcare!

Music - our music lady (Leanne from Music Bugs) is changing to Tuesday afternoons now which is really exciting and will offer more children the opportunity to join in with Music Bugs 😊

A few reminders -

Nappies/wet wipes - please make sure you provide enough items for your child and keep their bag well stocked.

Nursery clothing - If your child borrows nursery clothes. Please can you make sure these are washed and returned. Our spare clothes at nursery seem to becoming less and less and we do not want to run out. Please have a look at home and if you have any of our nursery clothes, underwear or socks please put them in your child's bag to return and let us know they are in there.

Non slip socks - could babies upstairs please have non slip socks everyday - it is sometimes not warm enough to remove socks completely and the lino end is not safe with tights/socks without the sticky spots.

Antibiotics - please remember all children need to stay at home for 48hours after starting antibiotics. This is in place to ensure if your child has an allergic reaction due to taking the antibiotics this would happen at home in your care. It is also important for them to be at home if they are poorly as nursery is a busy environment and is probably not the best place for anyone who isn't 100% well.

Birthday Cake - although the children do love sharing their birthday cakes at nursery can you please check the ingredients, we ask that they do not come in if they contain nuts (please double check the ingredient's, we will have to check at the door and send home if it even contains traces). Our baby and toddler room cannot have chocolate cake due to the recommendations around babies not having chocolate in their diet, thank you for your anticipated support with this. We also have lots of children with dairy intolerances! We believe Asda do a great nut free and free from range 😊

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 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.

Invoices - If you didn't amend your standing order for your April fees please make sure you do it for May several payments have been wrong (thank you to everyone who did make the changes 😊). If your payment is wrong please let us know and make any extra payment. Can we remind everyone that fees are payable in advance and if late we can charge a late fee.

Fundraising day for Ukraine - We were thrilled to have raised just under £300 for the Unicef Ukraine appeal - thank you all so much 😊

Easter - A reminder that 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 14th April.

Dates for your diary-

Photographer visiting - Monday 6th June 2021 (am)

School leavers Party - Wednesday 31st August we will be holding a school leavers party (more info below)

Easter closure - Friday 15th April & Monday 18th April

Bank Holiday closure - May 2nd

Spring and Jubilee Bank Holiday closure - June 2nd & 3rd

Bank Holiday closure - Aug 29th

School leavers party - 31st August we will be holding a party at nursery for the school leavers! The party will start at 1.45pm, children will play traditional party games and we will hold a small graduation event (where all children will collect a certificate to celebrate their time with us, their younger nursery friends will be watching and cheering). At 3/3.15pm we will have a picnic tea 😊 From 3.45pm until 4.30pm we will be having free play and ice creams in the garden, we would like to invite parents to pop in during this time to have an ice cream too! The stage will be decorated so this will offer the perfect opportunity for you to get some photographs of your child (with or without you/key person) and for you to say your goodbyes 😊 An ice cream van is visiting and will be parked on the drive, we will purchase a lolly or ice cream for the children but please bring your pennies if you think you would like one! If it is not your child's normal day please contact the office to book them in (we need to know how many extra children to cater for). **Please remember it is in our policy that**

parents will not add photographs to any social media platform that has other children in them.

We hope you have a lovely Easter and that you all have some quality family time. Let's hope we are lucky with the weather! Please pop some photographs onto Tapestry so we can see what your children enjoy doing over their Easter weekend, we genuinely love to see and it gives us all something to chat about on our return 😊

Thank you all so much for your continued support,
Claire, Shel and the Abacus Team

Support/Advice contact numbers;

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

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