



March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have had a wonderful month at Abacus! All of the children loved Shrove Tuesday, watching Sophie flip pancakes was great fun! Please take a look at our Facebook page and your child's Tapestry for regular updates and photos on various different things!

Staff - The team have all been busy completing online courses, and are either learning new things or refreshing their already existing knowledge, Sophie & Jordyn have also been on a 3 week communication training group, and have found it all really interesting, and are going to use some of the ideas for our upcoming staff meetings. Sadly Ellie will be leaving Abacus, she is finding looking after her little ones and juggling an early years career to difficult, so has opted to spend some more time with her children and family. We wish her all the best for the future.

Sophie M is also now on maternity leave, and patiently waiting for the arrival of her baby boy! We will let you know as soon as he arrives, I know many of the children are also eagerly awaiting his arrival 😊

Key person - Please remember that all staff care and nurture for all children on each floor and all staff are familiar with all children in the nursery due to how we run our days so if your child has a change in key person please do not worry. Apart from the parent chats and Tapestry updates you should not be aware of any change and of course the children are not even aware who their key person is so there will be no change to the high level of care they receive.

Pupil Premium - If your child receives 15/30 hour funding you might be eligible to apply for Pupil Premium, please look at the link below. The forms only take a few minutes to complete and the nursery would be given the payments directly. Any money claimed through pupil premium would go directly to supporting your child's nursery experience and needs.

[Early Years pupil premium information for parents \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/early-years-pupil-premium-information-for-parents)

Tapestry - Please remember to save any photos/posts you like on Tapestry as your child's account closes when they leave. We would recommend saving things throughout their time with us rather than waiting until they leave as this could be a lengthy process!

New Menu/Food - Our Summer Menu, this will start on April 1st. The menu is now on our Website for you to see so please take a look 😊 We are looking forward to having Summer casserole with couscous, Gazpacho and Lemon broccoli pasta! Our menu is planned to meet all the nutritional needs of your little ones and it is delicious.

Just a little reminder that we are a nut free setting so if buying a birthday cake please ensure it contains no nuts, and that for babies/toddlers upstairs no chocolate!

Clothing for all weather! - With the weather warming up a little on some days please remember to pack suitable clothing, it's that tricky time of year where its warm one day and really cold the next! We appreciate your support with this.

Sickness - If contacted because your little one is poorly we ask that you collect them (or arrange for someone else to collect them) within 30 minutes. We have had several times recently where it has taken parents a lot longer to arrive, (an hour/ hour and a half) and although we understand that on occasions you might be slightly over the 30 minutes we do ask that you try to and adhere to this. We appreciate that some of you work away but we do ask that an emergency contact is also added to paperwork to help with this type of situation. Once a child is sick they isolate with a staff member until collected which impacts the rest of the nursery, and sometimes the longer a little one waits the more anxious/unwell they become. Can we also 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.

Tax Free Childcare - Please follow the link to see if you are eligible for Tax Free Childcare. If you already have an account please make sure we have the reference, and if you are going to set one up, again please provide us with the reference number. [Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare)

Funding- Please can we remind you to reconfirm your funding eligibility codes every 3 months to continue to have eligibility for this funding. If your circumstances change and you are no longer eligible please make sure you let us know so that we can make the necessary changes to invoices/paperwork. If any child starting their 15/30 hours this year would like to increase their hours we do only have a few odd sessions left until September 2025! If you forget to reconfirm and your funding runs out this could impact your invoice and full fees may need to be paid so please let us know.

Invoices - Please remember to review your standing order for April fees as this is a new term and to check you are paying into the new Abacus bank account! You should receive your new invoice soon (hopefully next week). **Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.**

Fees - This year, due to rises in wages (minimum wage) and utility bills we are having to make a rise in line with inflation and the cost of living this year. This increase will help us to maintain our outstanding provision. Please see below for Fees from April 1st 2024 -

Fees from April 1st:

<i>Full Fee Paying - NON FUNDED places</i>		
Session	Under 2 years	2 years +
Morning (8-1pm)	40.96	39.80
Afternoon (1-6pm)	37.12	35.96
Daily (8-6pm)	72.96	70.57
Full time	342.92	331.26
<i>Funded Places Fees</i>		
Additional Hours over Funded Hours	5.07	5.07
Lunch	4.44	4.44
Breakfast	3.11	3.11
Tea	3.11	3.11
AM / PM Additional	5.55	5.55
All DAY Additional	11.10	11.10

Hair Bands - Could we ask that you do not to use the tiny hair rubber bands (also known as mini elastics) at nursery as they can be a choking hazard for our younger children and babies. Children do quite often take their hair out/down during the day and then we find bands on the floor! Normal hairbands are fine as quite visual but the tiny elastics can get missed and are then dangerous. We would also ask that you try not to use bobbles with beads on as again if they break this can be a choking hazard. Thank You 😊

Easter - We will be having our yearly Easter bonnet parades during the week prior to Easter from the Monday 25th March. 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 having fun! It is lovely to watch our children grow in confidence as they march around the nursery each day to music. If you need some help with making a hat please let us know but remember we do not expect amazing creations!

Events - Please check the dates below! We have several events coming up - World Book day, Red Nose Day, Easter Bonnett Parade, Pyjamarama, Parent Chats & Book Share! We wouldn't want you to miss anything 😊

Dates for the diary -

- **World Book Day** - Thursday 7th March (Children can dress up as their favourite book characters all week)
- **Red Nose Day** - Friday 15th March
- **Book Share for toddler & preschool room** - March 20th 4.30pm (if it is your little ones normal day please pop in for a story or two) 😊
- **School Transition meeting** - Monday 8th April 6-7pm (Parents of school leavers only please- no children)
- **Parent Chats** - Wednesday 10th April 2024 (6-7.30pm, parents only please)

- **Easter Bonnet Parades** - W.C. Monday 25th March 2024
- **Easter break** - 29th to 1st April (closed)
- **Pyjamarama** - Friday 17th 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** - 6th & 27th (closed)
- **Garden book share for our toddler and preschool children** - Tuesday 30th July
- **Baby room summer stay and play** - 20th 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** - 26th August (closed)
- **School Leavers Party** (and last day) - 1.45-4.15pm (parents invited in between 3.30-4.15pm) - August 30th
- **Christmas Church Service**- Wednesday 11th December @ 6.15pm. St Peters Church, Eastwick Road, Taunton.
- **Christmas 2024**- Our last day will be Friday 20th December 2024, and we will re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2025

Thank you all so much for your continued support,

Sophie, Jordyn and the Abacus 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 this winter; <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 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