



October 2023

Dear Parents,

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



Staffing news - Sophie has now taken over the role of Manager and is really embracing her new role. Jordyn has also completed her Safeguarding Training and is the Safeguarding Lead until Sophie does her training in the new year. We are also sadly saying goodbye to Ella who is moving onto another role and Clare who is moving onto another part time role- we will really miss you Clare but Good Luck.

We have also now employed a couple of new staff members Anais who has started her apprenticeship with us, Kira who will start next week and is level 3 qualified. Both of the ladies are super excited to get stuck into Abacus 😊

Winter Menu - We will now be starting our winter menu on Monday 9th October. You can view both our Summer and Winter Menus on our Abacus Website for any parents that wish to take a look.

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 as we go outside every day, whatever the weather. For our toddler and preschool children can you also please provide a named hat and pair of gloves that can stay in your child's nursery bag. Children in our baby and toddler room can leave theirs here for the winter months! 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.

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.

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 2024. All information is on this link: [Apply to start school for the first time \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk)

Spider and Pumpkin Week- Week beginning Monday 30th 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 13th November! All children can wear spots if they wish and we will be fundraising all week - suggested donation 50p/£1 😊

Parent Chats - We are offering (in person not via Teams or Zoom) parent chats on November 15th 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 😊 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 😊 More information in the porch!

Christmas Jumper Week- Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper' week to take place w.c. the 4th December. We will be wearing Christmas jumpers for the whole week and suggest a donation of 50p/£1 to go towards Save the Children.

Christmas Parties- We will have Christmas parties on the last two afternoons before our Christmas closure, but if your child doesn't usually attend they will be invited to the Tuesday afternoon party (cost will be confirmed later). Watch this space for more information!

Christingle - This year our Christingle will be on Wednesday 13th 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. Oct 30th.
- **Parent Chats** - Wednesday 15th November (6-7.30pm, **parents only please - no little ones!**)
- **Children in need** - Week commencing 13th November! All children can wear spots if they wish and we will be fundraising all week - suggested donation 50p/£1 😊
- **Book Share for toddler & preschool room** - November 22nd at 4.30pm (if it is your little ones normal day please pop in for a story or two)

- **Christmas Church Service** (just for Abacus!) - Wednesday 13th December - 6.15pm (30 minute children's service) at St Peters Church. The perfect way to all get together and start our Christmas celebrations.
- **Christmas party dates**- 19th & 20th December- More info to follow!
- **Christmas closure** - **Our last day is now Wednesday 20th** (not Thursday 21st) December 2023 and we will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2024! We are now having to close a day early as builders are coming in over the Christmas break and they needed an extra day - sorry for any inconvenience.
- **Baby room stay and play** - February 27th 4.30pm (pop in for a quick play at the end of the day - if it is your little ones usual day) more dates later in the year 😊
- **Red Nose Day** - Friday 17th 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) more dates later in the year 😊
- **Pyjamarama** - **May 2024!**
- Easter break - 29th to 1st April (closed)
- May Bank holidays - 6th & 27th (closed)
- August Bank holiday 26th (Closed)
- School Leavers Party - August 30th

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

Kind regards,

Sophie, Jordyn and the team 😊

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

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