



November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers & Families

Staffing - We are delighted to let you all know that after several years of hard work and dedication all of our assistants have been promoted to a practitioner role, they do still have a little bit to learn but we felt it was time to recognise how far they have all come in their early years journey. Ella is just about to start her level 3 training and she will be followed by Mia P next year! So Congratulations and thank you to Mia P, Olivia, Abbie and Ella 😊

New SENCO - Our new SENCO will be starting on November 4th, she has not been in this role before but has experience of working within an outstanding nursery and has recently completed her level 5 in early years. We would like to welcome Jordyn to the Abacus team, we will be putting relevant external training in place shortly to help her learn her new role. She is having some in house training during her first week to help introduce her to this role, she is very excited to be starting.

Music Bugs - moving to a Friday morning in January! This means that a new group of children can enjoy this fabulous session for the next few months. We will look to change the session again later next year so that everyone hopefully (over time) will get a turn to experience Lianne's music!

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 Halloween!

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!

Forest School - We have been in touch with Aspen Court and will soon be able to return once a week to use their gardens for Forest School! This is really exciting and a link that we are very keen to embrace again! We are hoping to return in January, the preschool children who have permission to leave the setting will be venturing to Aspen Court on a Thursday morning (possibly alternate weeks). Two practitioners will go with them and a maximum of 8 children will go at a time. Mia G will continue to run some outdoors/forest type activities at nursery so if your child isn't in on a Thursday please don't worry 😊 On days that it is very cold/wet we will risk assess on the day and make a decision as to whether we should go or remain at nursery!

Safer Sleeping - Each year we review our policies and check latest guidance, this has made us reflect on our use of comforters in the baby and toddler room during sleep time. We have noticed an increase in children being given large comforters which we feel is putting our little ones at an increased risk. The Lullaby Trust do state that children should sleep in a clear space and this is our recommendation. If you would like your little one to have a comforter this does need to be small and not something that could cover their face (or partially cover). Please see the link to the Lullaby Trust poster, the website has some really useful information. abc-a4-poster.pdf (lullabytrust.org.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 - We do need to know if your little one has had Calpol (for teething etc or other medicine) when you bring them to nursery. If your child spikes a temperature while with us we might administer a dose of emergency Calpol, if they had some before arriving this could result in an overdose so please do make sure you inform us otherwise 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. We have recently had several parents not collect for an hour/hour and a half after being contacted, with your little one resting/isolating in the snug with a staff member this leaves us short staffed in the building (especially over lunchtime). 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.

CHRISTMAS -

Christmas Lunch will be enjoyed on Friday 16th 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 very 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 10th We will be selling raffle tickets from December 5th 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!

Aspen Court Children/Residents Christmas party - Aspen Court are holding a party for our preschool children (who are in that day) on Tuesday 13th December at 2pm-3pm! Two staff will take children and stay with them. Another staff member will help with walking up and back! We are sure both the children and residents will have lots of fun 😊

Christingle - This will be at 5.30pm (for 30/40 minutes) on Thursday 15th 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). We apologise that this would mean you would need to collect by 5.15 that evening if you wish to attend, we will remain open until 6pm for those of you who do not wish to come. 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 believe we are having a Christmas tree made with cut out handprints, a festive snow scene, a snowman and a Christmas fireplace with stockings! 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.

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 21st & 22nd 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 (no space on the Thursday) 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 Charlies Gift (www.charliesgift.co.uk) this charity has a very close link to a staff member so we are proud to be supporting them (more details on the link or below). 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** - Tuesday 15th November (6-7.30pm, parents only please)
- **Children in need** - Spotty Week! 14th 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 5th December - suggested donation 50p/£1
- **Aspen Court Children/Residents Christmas party** - for our preschool children (who are in that day) - Tuesday 13th December at 2pm-3.15pm! Two staff will take children and stay with them. Another staff member will help with walking up and back!
- **Christingle church service** - This will be at 5.30pm on Thursday 15th December at St Peters Church, Lyngford, Taunton. Extended families welcome!
- **Christmas Lunch** - Friday 16th December
- **Christmas Party dates** - 21st & 22nd December (2-4.15pm)
- **Christmas Closure** - we close on Thursday 22nd December and open again on Tuesday 3rd January.
- **Coffee Morning** - Saturday 11th February 10-11.30 - People all over the UK host their own Coffee Mornings to support the Macmillan Trust, we have decided this year to hold our own event to help raise money for this very worthy charity. We have several staff members and families who have faced the struggles of a cancer diagnosis so the team are delighted to be able to help raise funds - pop the date in your diary and join us for a slice of cake!
- **School Transition meeting** - Monday 6th March 6-7pm (Parents only please)
- **Parent Chats** - Tuesday 21st March (6-7.30pm, parents only please)
- **Spring book share for our toddler and preschool children** - between 4.30pm and 5.15pm (please arrive at 4.30pm if you wish to join in!) we are inviting you in (sorry but limited to one adult) to share a book (or two) and have a drink/biscuit with your little one (if it is there normal nursery day) - Monday 24th April.
- **Easter break** - 7th to 10th April (closed)
- **May Bank holidays** - 1st & 29th (closed)
- **Garden book share for our toddler and preschool children** - between 4.30pm and 5.15pm (please arrive at 4.30pm if you wish to join in!) we are inviting you in (sorry but limited to one adult) to share a book (or two) and have a drink/biscuit with your little one (if it is there normal nursery day) - Tuesday 4th July
- **Summer Bank holiday** - 28th August (closed)

- **School Leavers Party** (and last day) - 1.45-4.15pm (parents invited in between 3.30-4.15pm) - August 31st

Thank you for your continued support,

Claire, Shel and the team

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)

Charlies Gift - 'Charlie's Gift' was set up by Trustees Nicole and Jason Fidler, in memory of their young son Charlie who died suddenly in June 2010, aged just 8 years from Anaphylactic Shock. Charlie was always a loving and giving little boy with a generous heart, who lived his short but happy life to the full.

In the compassionate spirit to which Charlie approached his life, their aim as a charity is to provide funding to disadvantaged children living in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

This year Charlie would have been celebrating his 21st birthday so we are very proud to be fundraising for them.

Each Christmas we choose a charity that has a close personal link to a staff member or family of a child who attends, if you would like us to support a charity close to your own heart please let us know 😊