



August 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

Staff news - This month the team have been busy doing lots of training, lots of ladies have complete their 'Dingley's Promise' training, to help further support children with SEND needs. We have also done a few practice fire drills to keep up to date with our fire evacuation procedure, and all have gone well and according to our plans. Well done ladies 😊

Contact details & changes - Please remember to update your contact details or inform us of any other changes at Nursery. For example if you have moved house, changed phone numbers, jobs, changed dietary/medication, emails etc as this helps to ensure you are still receiving our updates/newsletters etc and helps us meet your little ones changing needs.

Name clothing - Please remember to name all clothing (including shoes) to help the ladies, it is very difficult to know what belongs to each child as we have nearly 80 children on our register.

Laundry Bags - Please remember to provide your child with a laundry bag inside of their nursery bag (not plastic) so that we can put their dirty clothes into after they have got wet/messy/changed etc.

New key person (KP) - with children moving downstairs and staff moving rooms and changing days we will need to alter some children's KP's. Please be reassured that all staff care and nurture all the children at Abacus. The KP is responsible for monitoring development and the record keeping on Tapestry but all of our staff build meaningful relationships with all of the children and are involved in their daily care/play. If you have a change of keyworker please be assured it will not impact your child's time with us.

Fees - Parents of School leavers please remember to cancel standing orders/ECredit etc so that you do not pay September fees! New invoices for children not leaving have been issued, you will need to check this (please get back to us quickly if you spot a mistake) and change your standing order ready for the new term. Please remember we do charge a late fee for all unpaid fees (in full or part) - Thank you for your anticipated support 😊

Coffee Morning- After such a huge success with the coffee morning at the beginning of last year, we will be hosting another McMillan Coffee Morning for everyone at Nursery (extended

family included). The date for this event will be Saturday 5th October 2024, 10am-11.30am. Please pop the date in your diary, and come and join us for a coffee and slice of cake! All proceed will go towards this amazing Charity!

If you will be joining us, please pop an email to the office to let us know, so we can make sure we cater for everyone and have an idea of numbers. 😊

Supporting your little ones wellbeing - A few ideas to try at home 😊

Sometimes when your little one experiences big feelings, they can become overwhelmed. These feelings can be so hard to cope with, especially when they haven't yet got the words to explain what's wrong.

Things you could do to help -

Go for a walk and talk about things that make you happy, being in the fresh air is so good for children and nature is very calming - use your senses and talk about the things you can hear/smell etc

Make a 'Hug Jar' - First, create lots of hearts (cut out card or fabric) to fill a container or jar. Then, when you or your little one feels upset, take a heart out of the jar and give it to the person you'd like a hug from. It's a way of signalling that it's time to stop for a moment and share some special time together.

Make Playdough! - Pressing, pulling, pushing and twisting dough can be a great stress reliever for you and your little one - also good for fine motor skills! Here's a simple no cook, no salt 'Play Dough' recipe for you to try.

All you need is 3 cups flour, 1 cup cold water and 1 tablespoon oil. You can add a little paint for colour! Mix it all together, and there you have it! The recipe is completely natural, using taste-safe ingredients.

Music Bugs & Mini Footy - Mini Footy sessions will be changing to a Tuesday PM from September, and Music Bugs sessions will be changing to a Thursday PM from September. We try to change the day of the session every 3/4 months to ensure that all children are getting to have a turn with the sessions 😊

Forest school will stay on a Wednesday and Lets Explore will stay on a Friday.

School leavers & Party -

The party will start at 1.45pm, children will play traditional party games and we will hold a small graduation type 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 and an ice cream from the ice cream van 😊 From 3.30pm until 4.15pm we will be having free play and ice creams in the garden, this is when parents can pop in and enjoy 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 an ice cream for each of the children but please bring your pennies if you think you would like one! **Please remember it is in our policy that parents will not add photographs**

to any social media platform that has other children in them. If taking photographs with other children please let staff know so that we can ensure you have the other parents agreement before taking the photograph. Can we ask that photographs are only taken on the stage (so that we can monitor for **safeguarding**) and that all mobile phones are put away at other times. Anyone using a mobile phone away from the stage area will be asked to pop it away. After the party last year several families went to the local park for an hour and they had a fabulous time - one parent has already suggested that this would be lovely to do again this year 😊

In line with GDPR we will be returning a number of documents that we deem not appropriate to keep once your child is no longer attending Abacus. We have a checklist of the items we keep and those that are returned to you and will be asking you to sign it to acknowledge this procedure in the last few weeks at nursery.

We would also like to remind all parents to please download any photos/posts from Tapestry before 9am on Wednesday 4th September as your account will then close.

This will sadly be your last newsletter (for parents of children going to school) and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your child a smooth and stress free transition into primary school where we hope they will continue to flourish and most importantly have fun. We thank you for choosing Abacus and hope you have enjoyed your time with us as much as we have enjoyed caring for your children and preparing them for their next stage of development.

Please remember you are invited to join us at the Abacus Christmas church service (details below) we would genuinely love to see you and catch up 😊

Most importantly we hope your little ones enjoy their first day at Primary school and that they come home full of smiles - it is the beginning of a wonderful journey 😊

We will miss you all - Take care, The Whole Abacus Team!

Dates for the diary -

- **Summer Bank holiday** - 26th August (closed)
- **Baby room summer stay and play** -27th August (please note date change) 4.30pm-5.15pm (pop in for a quick play at the end of the day - if it is your little ones usual day) 😊
- **School Leavers Party** (and last day) - 1.45-4.15pm (parents invited in between 3.30-4.15pm) - August 30th
- **McMillan Coffee Morning** - 10am-11.30am. Pop the date in your diary and come and join us for a slice of cake and a coffee! All raising money for a fantastic charity 😊
- **Parent Chats** - Tuesday 12th 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** - Tuesday 19th November.
- **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

Once again, thank you for your continued support

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