



October 2024

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 - Both Jadia & Anais has been on 1st Aid training, and are now both officially 1st Aid trained- well done to them both 😊

Winter Menu - We will now be starting our winter menu on Monday 7th October. You can view both our Summer (will be updated again next year) 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 (and they cannot wear in car seat) as we go outside every day, whatever the weather. 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.

Please can you also please provide a named winter hat and pair of gloves that can stay nursery for the winter months!

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/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time)

Spider & Pumpkin Week- Week beginning Monday 28th 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 on the 31st as well, we will learn all about spiders and pumpkins!

Children in Need- Week commencing 11th November! All children can wear spots if they wish and we will be fundraising all week - suggested donation £1 😊

Parent Chats - We are offering (in person not via Teams or Zoom) parent chats on November 12th 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 (form to go out soon) 😊 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.

Christmas Jumper Week- Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper' week to take place w.c. the 9th December. We will be wearing Christmas jumpers for the whole week and suggest a donation of £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 Thursday afternoon party (cost will be confirmed later). Watch this space for more information!

Christingle - This year our Christingle will be on Wednesday 11th 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 -

- **McMillan Coffee Morning** - Saturday 5th October 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 😊
- **Spider & Pumpkin Week** - W.C 28th October
- **Children in need** - Week commencing 11th November
- **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. 4.30 - 5.15pm (pop in for a quick play at the end of the day - if it is your little ones usual day)
- **Christmas Church Service**- Wednesday 11th December @ 6.15pm. St Peters Church, Eastwick Road, Taunton.
- **Christmas party dates**- 19th & 20th December- More info to follow!
- **Christmas 2024**- Our last day will be Friday 20th December 2024, and we will re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2025

- **Baby room stay and play** - February 17th 4.30 - 5.15pm (pop in for a quick play at the end of the day - if it is your little ones usual day)
- **Red Nose Day** - Friday 15th March 2025
- **Book Share for toddler & preschool room** - March 2025 (Date to be confirmed)
- **Pyjamarama** - May 2025 (Date to be confirmed)
- **Easter Break** - 18th to 21st April (CLOSED)
- **May Bank Holidays** - 5th & 26th May (CLOSED)
- **August Bank Holiday** - 25th August (CLOSED)
- **School leavers Party/Graduation** - Friday 29th August

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

Kind regards,

Sophie, Jordyn and the team 😊

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

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