



September 2024

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us this term. We hope you will be very happy during your time with us, if you have any queries please let us know and we will do our very best to help.

If you are considering increasing once your child is settled please email or call the office and we will do all we can to support this, as there is extremely limited availability for the next few years.

Staff News - Mia P has returned to the Abacus Team. For those of you who don't know Mia, she worked at Abacus for many years, but decided to take a break from childcare and spend time with her family. However she missed Abacus so much, that after only a few months away she wanted to come back 😊 she is already settled back in and the children were so excited to see her again!

Tapestry - Just a reminder that we aim to add to your child's Tapestry each week. However, if we have staff off (sickness and holidays) we will always prioritise the children's care and learning which can result in a slight delay in uploading their Tapestry for you to view. We are sure you will agree that this is far more important. We will of course always do our best to ensure it doesn't happen too often. Please don't forget to add photos and comments about their wonderful adventures at home, this will help to make the journal a true account of their early years and it of course helps us get to know your child even better. Please remember to save any Tapestry photographs/posts that you wish to keep 😊

Clothing - Now the weather is on the change please make sure the items of spare clothing in your child's nursery bag is appropriate and named. We play out in all weathers so a waterproof coat is a must. Children upstairs should wear non slip socks when it starts to get a little colder please.

Breakfast - please remember that breakfast finishes at 9am, should you arrive just before 9am your child will be offered fruit and a drink, if they need a full breakfast please make sure they arrive in plenty of time (we suggest 8.45 at the latest to make this a pleasurable experience).

Flu - Flu is a common infection in babies and children and can be very unpleasant for them. Children under the age of 5 have the highest hospital admission rates for flu compared to

other age groups. Children aged 2 and 3 years old (on 31 August before flu vaccinations start in the autumn) are eligible for a free flu vaccination in the form of a nasal spray. This is usually given at the GP practice. For more useful information please contact your surgery.

Parent Chats - We will be inviting you in for a parent chat during November! Please remember we would always get in touch with you if we had anything worrying us about your child's development, and then offer the appropriate support.

Birthday Cake - although the children do love sharing their birthday cakes at nursery can you please check the ingredients, we ask that they do not come in if they contain nuts (please double check the ingredient's, we will have to check at the door and send home if it even contains traces). Our baby and toddler room cannot have chocolate cake due to the recommendations around babies not having chocolate in their diet, thank you for your anticipated support with this. We also have lots of children with dairy intolerances! We believe Asda do a great nut free and free from range. We do only give a small slice of cake so no need to buy enormous ones.

Book swap, Show swap and Coat recycling - please take advantage of our book swap and coat/shoe recycling in the porch, many children do use the book swap and enjoy having something new to read 😊 Reading stories to your little one provides an exciting way into worlds children could not otherwise visit and helps to develop their imagination. Looking at books also supports rich language development and helps to develop your child's brain! If you have an old (but good condition) coat/ pair of shoes that your little one has grown out of please do consider popping it in the porch for another family to take.

Christmas - We will have Christmas parties on the last two afternoons before our Christmas closure, if your child doesn't usually attend on these sessions they will be invited to the Thursday afternoon party (cost will be confirmed later for those who book as an extra). Watch this space for more information!

Harvest Festival - The Harvest Festival is celebrated around the world across many different faiths and cultures. It takes place at different times of the year in different countries, according to when the main harvest is for each country. In the USA, the Harvest Festival is known as Thanksgiving and is a national holiday in November every year! Foodbanks rely on goodwill and support so as part of our Harvest Festival we are supporting Taunton Food bank and would like to provide donations of packaged foods. If you would like your child to bring in something from the list below they can proudly add it to our Harvest display on their arrival. The food bank needs: Coffee, tea, sugar, squash, Weetabix, cereals, spam, corned beef, tinned meat pies, tinned garden peas, carrots, mixed vegetables, tins of custard. Please check everything is in date. **Items can be brought in during the week of September 23rd.** We will be planning lots of activities with the children to celebrate Harvest time such as leaf rubbing and farm play! The Harvest Festival is usually a time to share locally grown produce with those in need and celebrate with a big feast. Churches are often decorated with fruits and vegetables brought by parishioners, which is then donated to charity.

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 too, we will learn all about spiders and pumpkins!

Dates for the diary -

- **Harvest** - Week commencing September 23rd
- **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.
- **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
- **Baby room stay and play** - February 2025 (Date to be confirmed)
- **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)

Once again, thank you for your continued support

Sophie, Jordyn and the Abacus 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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