



September 2019

Dear Parents,

A 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 be happy to help. If you're an 'old timer' a big thank you for your continued support. We do have a few sessions available if you are considering increasing once your child is settled or to help them settle. Please see the office and we will do all we can to support this. We would also like to welcome Milly to our team, she will be doing relief work with us this year before she heads off to Uni next September.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Sports Day and Graduation (downstairs children only) a great family event held at West Monkton Village Hall each year followed by our graduation for school leavers. All of the children who came along had a fun and memorable day. We are already looking forward to next years event. We raised £130 from the raffle that took place, £65 will be donated to Little Bridge House children's hospice.

Safeguarding/SEND - Just a reminder that Claire and Michelle are the Safeguarding Designated Leads and SENCOs at nursery, if you wish to discuss/raise any matter/concerns please speak to either of them.

Portion size - another great website to help parents understand portion sizes for the under 5's is www.infantandtoddlerforum.org please take a look it's helpful and interesting.

Transition Questionnaires (for children moving to our toddler and pre-school room) - Many thanks for returning, as a team we will be discussing them in our next staff meeting. So far we are very pleased with the results. The feedback provided will help us to continue to ensure we are meeting the needs of both children and parents at Abacus.

Tapestry - We are aiming to add to your child's Tapestry each week. However, if we have staff off (sickness and holidays) we may have a slight delay in uploading their Tapestry for you to view as we will prioritise the children's care and learning. We are sure you would agree that this is more important but hopefully this will not happen very often. We will of course still be in ratio at these times. 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.

Parents and carers of children due to start school in September 2020 can apply now using the on-line application form. The deadline is 15 January 2020 and with the increasing demand for school places it is more important than ever that you make an on-time application. You can apply

by visiting www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions or by contacting Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 (if a paper application form is required).

Pre-school, Forest school and Yoga - Sophie is leading the pre-school sessions which we have decided to start earlier this year to support all of our children who are starting school in September 2020!. If you would like any further information please speak to Sophie, she has lots of exciting activities planned. We will have a school transition parents evening early next year where we will be able to give lots of further advice.

Louise has also started the Yoga and Forest school sessions this week so again if you would like to know more about these sessions please chat with her. Aspen Court have now cleared (and made safe) the forest area so we are really excited to be developing Forest School.

Clothing - Now the weather is on the change please make sure the items of spare clothing in your child's nursery bag is appropriate. We play out in all weathers so a waterproof coat is a must.

Wow Board - Please let a member of staff know if your child does something at home to celebrate so we can add it to our WOW Board, every little success can then be celebrated.

Lullaby Trust - Emma has been looking at their website and found it to be very informative, they provide expert advice on safer sleep for babies so please take a look if you think it may help in your house at bedtime <https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/>

Parent Chats - We will be inviting you in for a parent chat with your key worker during November, more information to follow.

Dates for your diary

September 23rd - October 4th - 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 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.

December -

Save the Children's Christmas Jumper - more details to follow

Nativity and Christmas party for downstairs children will take place on Friday 20th December at West Monkton village hall (their last day at nursery for 2019 will be Thursday 19th December). Nursery will be open for upstairs children as usual on Friday 20th December with their Christmas party taking place here that afternoon.

Thank you for your continued support

Ruth, Claire and all the team

