



December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

In case we don't see you in person we all wish you a very fun filled Christmas spent with loved ones, and thank you for your continued support this year, it really has been appreciated. Despite everything we have had a great 2020 at Abacus and are now all looking especially forward to 2021. As you will have seen from Tapestry we are delighted to welcome Naomi back and all being well have a new qualified lady joining us in January, making the staff team complete.

Starting school Sept 2021 - We have been asked by SCC to prompt parents attending Abacus with children due to start School Sept 21 who are yet to make an application. Applications need to be made on-line at [www.Somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.Somerset.gov.uk/admissions)

Tapestry - Please remember to post some photographs over the Christmas break so that the staff can see what you have all been doing and chat to the children about it when we return. Can we also remind you that we do put a lot of updates and notices onto Tapestry so please do keep checking, we would hate for you to miss important information. Emma will be taking Albie the Abacus bear home over Christmas and will be putting photographs on Tapestry for you. We are sure the children will love to see what he has been doing with her at this festive time.

Car seats without coats - as a general rule according to safety advice, winter coats should not be worn underneath a car seat harness because that can leave the harness too loose to be effective in a crash. Here's a simple way to check whether your child's coat is too big to wear underneath a harness:

Step 1: Put the coat on your child, sit him or her in the car seat and fasten the harness. Tighten the harness until you can no longer pinch any of the webbing with your thumb and forefinger.

Step 2: Without loosening the harness at all, unhook it and remove your child from the car seat. Take the coat off, put your child back in the car seat, and buckle the harness straps, which should be adjusted just as they were when the child was wearing the coat. If you can pinch the webbing between your thumb and forefinger now, then the coat is too bulky to be worn under the harness. Instead for babies put a blanket over them to keep them warm. For

a bigger child, after securing him or her in the car seat, turn the coat around and put it on backward (with arms through the armholes), so the back of the coat serves as a blanket resting on top of the harness.

Christmas information:-

The children and staff are very excited about our Christmas celebrations which start on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> when we are having our Christmas dinner. Nikki will be cooking a full roast with all the trimmings (including crackers) and a ginger cake for pudding.

Children have been learning and loving the following songs;

When Santa got stuck up the chimney.

Father Christmas, Father Christmas, he got stuck...(to the tune of Frère Jacques)

Jingle bells

Christmas pudding, Christmas pudding, steaming hot...(to the tune of Frère Jacques)

Twinkle Twinkle little star

Away in a manger

I'm a little pine tree (to tune of I'm a little teapot)

We wish you a merry Christmas.

Advent calendars downstairs - a large one has been made with the children downstairs to learn about the countdown to Christmas. The displays are fabulous again this year, please take a moment to look at the photographs of them on our Facebook page, the children were so excited to see them go up.

Party Days (Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>) - Although they are going to be different this year they will still be just as much fun for the children. We will be having traditional party games, dancing and hat making taking place! We appreciate that some of you will be disappointed that we are not doing our nativity but please be reassured that all of the children are still learning about the Christmas story and the meaning of Christmas throughout December.

Christmas Jumper day is this Friday (11<sup>th</sup>) but children can wear their Christmas jumpers and make a donation for Save the Children throughout next week if you/they wish to.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for your star donations, the money this year is going towards a charity that is very close to our hearts at Abacus. Very sadly a little boy that used to attend Abacus passed away over the summer and his family are fundraising for the Wallace and Gromit Grand Appeal, we will be donating all of the money raised from our Christmas stars to this appeal. We will of course let you know how much we raise and will be doing a follow up fundraising event in the spring. We would also like to thank you for the cards and gifts they are all very much appreciated, we collect them and then do a raffle for the team to ensure everybody gets something to take home, always very exciting, any leftover goodies are saved for staff meetings 😊.

The staff team at Abacus wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you back at nursery on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Kind regards,

Ruth, Claire and the team

PS. Please remember to follow the Government guidance over the Christmas break to safeguard everyone, should Nursery opening be affected by COVID (or Weather) we will keep you updated via Tapestry.

Our contact details: [wru343@aol.com](mailto:wru343@aol.com)  
01823 288681

You can give Mindline (Somerset) a call 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. No one should face poor mental health alone this winter;

<https://www.mindinsomerset.org.uk/> 01823 276892

Somerset Coronavirus Helpline: 0300 790 6275

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

OFSTED: 0300 1231231

Preventing Radicalisation & extremism in Somerset: [prevent@somerset.gov.uk](mailto: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

