



November 2021

Dear Parents, Carers & Families

Staffing - We are delighted to let you all know that Amy is returning (she left 2 years ago) and will be the downstairs senior support 😊 Amy is currently a deputy in another setting but is returning as she loved the Abacus Ethos and misses the support given to the staff here. We are delighted to have her back.

We unfortunately have some sad news to share with you all, Ellie has decided it is the right time for her to step back and spend some quality time with a close family member who is sadly very unwell. This means she will be stepping down from room supervisor at the end of the month, however she will be joining the supply team as she doesn't want to lose touch with her Abacus family! We will really miss seeing her each day but have known for some time that this time would come, she has our full support and understanding.

Sadly, Emma has also decided it is time to move on to a new adventure. Again, this has been coming for some time, Emma was going to leave at the end of last year but with a change in ownership she decided to stay a little longer to support the team with the transition to new owners. However, she has recently felt that she needs a new challenge so will be moving to work nights in a residential home in Taunton to support parents and their little ones. Emma has been with Abacus for over 15 years so this is a big loss to us and she will be missed by everyone. I believe she has already shed a few tears but we know she is also excited to be doing something new.

We have already appointed a new deputy and are thrilled to let you all know that Michelle is returning and will be taking over this position in the new year. Many of you will have fond memories of Michelle, she left to have her baby last Christmas and was an outstanding room leader. We are so pleased she will be coming back and know she is really looking forward to taking on this new role.

We will be advertising for a new room leader and will keep you updated. Although this will all have come as a bit of a shock to you all please be reassured that the team are still dedicated and as passionate as ever. Abacus will always be a happy, caring and supportive nursery, where your child(ren) will continue to thrive.

Music Bugs - moving to a Monday afternoon in December! This means that a new group of children can enjoy this fabulous session for the next 2/3 months. We will look to change the session again next year so that everyone hopefully (over time) will get a turn to experience Lianne's music!

Covid Update - We hope you have all seen our Tapestry update but just in case you missed it we have copied the information across to here for you - We have had an update from PHE asking us to put extra measures in place again. Staff will be wearing face coverings again inside when they cannot social distance and we will be implementing further cleaning. Staff do not like wearing the masks but County have advised that they should be worn for the next three/four weeks so we will be wearing them until we get a further update. Numbers of positive cases are rising in all educational establishments; more staff members are having positive results.

Can we ask again that you do not send your child if they have any Covid symptoms, we have recently had to send several children home quite early in the day after they have arrived with a persistent cough or temperature. We do appreciate how difficult it can be for all of you and we completely sympathise but we must adhere to Gov advice and do all we can to keep our children safe. It is unfair to put this added pressure onto the staff who all find it very upsetting having to call and ask for your child to have a PCR. Of course where symptoms start throughout the day this is fine and cannot be avoided but we really do need your support with being extra vigilant.

Can we also remind you that when your child has any symptoms they do need a full PCR, not a lateral flow and that they cannot return until they have had a negative result.

If you or your child has a positive result we would need to be informed straight away (via email) and would ask that your child is then tested (if a parent is positive), to help us manage any potential outbreaks.

We are very aware that for many of you it has been a difficult two years and your ongoing support and understanding has been wonderful, we would once again like to thank you for this and for your anticipated support leading up to Christmas.

Sickness - We are still struggling to get on top of the sickness bug! We are doing regular cleans each day, washing toys, windows are open etc but we are still having daily cases. Please make sure that if your child shows any signs of sickness or diarrhoea that they do not return for at least 48hours after their last episode of sickness. Several people (children and staff) have now had this twice!

Parent Chats (evening) - We are postponing the parent chats (due to recent Covid updates) until next year. We did discuss doing a virtual parents evening but we felt that the virtual chats would end up taking more time and the ladies already work a ten hour day so feel this is unfair. The ladies are so good at keeping in touch on Tapestry and you do get a quick handover each day so we hope you do not mind waiting a little longer. We also only have one computer that can do video calling in the building and with 80 sets of parents that could prove tricky! Of course as mentioned in our last newsletter if we had any concerns we would get in touch with you, and if you ever felt the need to talk we would find a suitable time to do so.

Clothing - The temperature has suddenly dropped. We want to continue enjoying outdoor play and the benefits your children get from fresh air and extra space to run around etc. Please make sure they have adequate clothing - e.g. Cardigan/sweatshirt over their vest and t shirt (long sleeved) and top then a thick winter coat. Please also remember that due to Covid we have to keep our windows open for ventilation so make sure your little one has plenty of layers on to keep warm.

Tapestry - Thank you to all of you who are contributing to Tapestry. The staff love to see photographs of what you, as a family, have been doing at the weekends and in the evenings. The children love it when we talk about seeing their adventures away from Abacus 😊

Nursery Development - We are very lucky and have just spent £1000 on new resources for the children! We have bought some lovely sensory equipment and created a den in our downstairs room (with mood lighting). We have also bought some giant outside bean bags, dolls, stepping stones, a globe, mini fence dividers, blankets & cushions, squishy shapes, baby building blocks, light box...

CHRISTMAS -

Christmas party - As mentioned in our last newsletter we are planning on having three party afternoons at Abacus this year in both our Baby room and Toddler/pre-school room. The parties will be held on Dec 20,21 & 22nd

between 2-4pm. We will play games and enjoy some festive songs/dancing and of course have a delicious party tea. We hope Father Christmas will visit with a little gift for each child. If your child does not normally attend Nursery on these days, they are invited to join us on the Monday afternoon at a cost of £12. Please email the office before 1st December to let us know you wish to book this.

Christmas Lunch will be enjoyed on Friday 17th December - we will have a traditional roast dinner with all of the extras, followed by a novelty pudding! If you wish to book this day as an extra please email the office or give us a call (we have very limited space).

Christmas Fair/Get together - Sadly we have decided with the recent Covid update to cancel this event. The team are very sad but we know it is the sensible decision. We were so looking forward to spending time with you all but again will try to do something in the new year! We will make our in house festivities extra special for the children 😊

Christmas Raffle - We will still be doing a Christmas raffle, last year the children loved this! We will draw winners at tea times during the Christmas parties. It was lovely to see their little faces light up when they won a prize so if you have anything suitable to donate please could you bring it in by the end of next week! We will then be selling raffle tickets from December 6th. Lots of prizes for children would be wonderful and it really does only need to be something small!

Christmas displays -We will again have our traditional advent tree with mini stockings on it downstairs. This is used to support number recognition (as well as being very exciting), each lunchtime a child will be asked to find the number for the date and a small chocolate treat is placed inside the corresponding stocking. These are shared out downstairs at teatime on the last day of nursery. The ladies are already busy planning our display boards. I believe we are having a Christmas tree made with cut out handprints, a festive snow scene, a snowman and a Christmas fireplace with stockings! I am sure the children will love creating them and we will make sure that we add photographs to Tapestry and Facebook for you to enjoy.

Christmas Cards - Instead of Christmas cards we will be sending out stars for children to decorate, please return it with any message you may wish to add and a small contribution for charity (Jogle for Jude). These will be hung from the tree placed in the porch for all to enjoy.

Dates for the diary -

Children in Need - Friday 17th November. During this week we will be collecting donations for this valuable cause. We don't want to be presumptuous but often get asked how much should be donated. We are thinking if everybody gave 50p-£1 we would raise a tidy sum. To make the most of Pudsy's spots we will embrace patterns during Pudsey week!

Christmas Jumper day is nationally Friday 10th December, this will continue into the next week to ensure every child can be involved. Hunt out those jumpers!!! Donations again but this time for Save the Children.

Christmas Parties - Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd December.

Christmas closure - Wednesday 22nd at 6pm and we will reopen in the New Year on January 4th.

Thank you for your continued support,

Claire, Emma and the team

PS. Please remember should Nursery opening be affected by COVID or Weather we will keep you updated via Tapestry.

Our contact details: abacuschildrensnursery@outlook.com
01823 288681

NSPCC: [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247)

OFSTED: [0300 1231231](tel:03001231231)

Preventing Radicalisation & extremism in Somerset: prevent@somerset.gov.uk
[01823359879](tel:01823359879)

Somerset integrated domestic abuse services: [0800 694 9999](tel:08006949999)

Men's advice line (domestic abuse): [0808 801 0327](tel:08088010327)

Children's social care Somerset: [0300 123 2224](tel:03001232224)

