



Dear Parents,

January 2020

We appreciate Christmas was over month ago (how scary is that) but a big thank you for your generous gifts and Christmas wishes - we were delighted to receive so many lovely tubs of chocolates and boxes of biscuits, they are a real bonus for our staff meetings.

Christmas cards/stars - A big thank you to all of you who decorated a Christmas star, the tree in the porch looked beautiful. Cheeky request - If you have any 'unwanted' gifts from Christmas please consider up-cycling them to our raffle prize collection for our August raffle at Graduation and Sports Day.

I do hope the parents family and friends of downstairs children enjoyed the nativity, as always I was blown away by how brilliant they all were.

Heidi leaving - we are sure that most of you have read the Tapestry update about Heidi leaving but we wanted to mention again, how are very sad we are to say goodbye to her, she will be missed by everyone and we wish her lots of luck and happiness in her future. Luckily for the staff we will still have lots of contact with her as she will be picking up her grandson from Abacus, we are hoping she will stop sometimes to have a cup of tea and chat with the children. We would also like to reassure all parents that we will still maintain our high standards when it comes to your child's nutrition and their learning about food/diet. We are trialling Apetito (an award winning company) for the next month, their food is cooked using fresh ingredients and then flash frozen (to ensure the vitamins and nutrients are maintained) for us to cook on site. We have heard good reviews about their food which was confirmed last week when we had a chance to taste the food ourselves with the samples they provided us. Please feedback to us any comments from your children over the next few weeks so that we can ensure that we are all happy to proceed with them as our supplier.

Welcome to Judith - we are delighted to have employed Judith as a Housekeeper/cook, she will be working each day completing housekeeping tasks along with sorting lunch and teas. She will also be involving the children with preparing tea and baking. Judith will lead these activities and will be discussing ingredients and nutrition while she is cooking with them.

Transition to downstairs in readiness for September 2020 - This will take place for all children upstairs who are two before this coming September. There are a number of factors that we take into account when working out the order of who moves down. Most importantly every child's has to 'ready' with their confidence and skills to ensure they continue to enjoy their nursery experience. We will also only move a child down if we can accommodate all of their attendance days quickly, as we do not want them attending on both floors for too long, as this from experience causes confusion or upset. We will chat with you individually when we feel your child is ready to move down. As when you joined us we will organise 'settling in' session downstairs. These will be short to start with and then be extended as your child gains

confidence. If your child is not one of the first to move down, do not worry, they will be challenged upstairs with new activities appropriate to their stage of development. To help with the transition process and explain the differences between upstairs and downstairs and how you can support your child, we are offering a parents evening on Monday 23rd March, 6.30 start for approximately 1.5 hours more details to follow. We will be sitting on the children's chairs so if you have any specific needs please let us know so that we can sort something more suitable for you.

School readiness parents evening - Monday 17th February 6.30 start for approximately 1.5 hours. This will be very similar to the transition evening but this time to chat about what we are doing at Abacus and what you can do at home to ensure your child is 'School ready' and the transition to School is positive. Slips will go out soon, please return ASAP to ascertain numbers for catering.

Staffing - Staff have been updating their training again this month, we had another fabulous training day (on a Saturday) in January where we focused on Best Practice. This was not only very informative but a great team building opportunity.

Sound Waves - We are really excited to be part of the Sound Waves/Take Art project, starting on Tuesday 4th February. We will get 10 half day sessions led by two specialist music practitioners who will support and train our staff team! We already value and embrace music at Abacus but we hope being part of the project will allow our experienced staff to deepen their understanding of the importance of using music and train our new staff members. We cannot wait and are very proud to have been asked to be involved 😊

Tapestry - Don't forget you can add comments and photos yourselves for us to see. During your early days with us, the staff will endeavour to put photos on promptly with their Early Day Assessment forms to help you with the settling in process. We are always honest in our assessments and if a child has been upset we share this so we can also celebrate when they no longer cry about being left by you for example. Tapestry is very time consuming for staff please turn a blind eye to the odd spelling mistake or missed capital letter etc.

Social Media - don't forget we do not endorse staff and parents being 'friends' on social media unless family or friends prior to nursery. This is to ensure we maintain professional partnerships and do not blur the boundaries or make it difficult for either side. Thank you for your support in this.

Weather - If it snows please refer to the Weather Policy that was recently sent out on Tapestry, I believe we are due a little snow but hopefully this will not impact the nursery.

Birthday Cakes - The children do love sharing their birthday cakes at nursery but can you please check the ingredients, we ask that they do not come in if they contain nuts. 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.

As always, thank you for your continuous support and kind words you feedback to us about our service. Here's to a very successful, prosperous 2020 😊

Ruth, Claire and the team