



August 2019

Dear Parents,

We have had a fun and busy month at Abacus. Our children downstairs are currently enjoying a range of activities under the heading 'Sorts'. During this theme we have also been practicing for sports day races, the little ones from upstairs have also enjoyed joining in with our practice. We are all very excited about this event and hope you are too.

Upstairs have been enjoying activities under the theme of music and sound. From the office it sound like an excuse to make a lot of noise which has gone down very well.

Sports day and Graduation Service reminder

Sports day: Monkton Heathfield Village hall on Wednesday 28th August at 10am. This event is for downstairs children only. If your child has been visiting downstairs in readiness for September they will remain at nursery on this day. Please do not arrive before 9.45 (the gate will stay closed until this time) to allow staff to get completely organised.

Please make sure your child is wearing appropriate footwear for races, has a hat if sunny, with sunscreen lotion already applied. If spitting with rain we will remain outside so come prepared with brollies etc. If raining hard and we are forced to go inside, for safety purposes we will have to limit adults attending, to two per child.

On arrival please make sure your child is signed in and collects their team sticker. The races will last approximately one and a half hours. For this part of the day, parents along with other family members are invited to attend. Every child must be accompanied by an adult who will need to remain responsible for their child throughout the morning i.e. accompany them to the toilet and ensure they remain with you when it's not their turn to race.

This event has always been a very social affair with adults sitting either side of the runway cheering the children on. To ensure the event runs smoothly I will be telling the children to remain with their parents (and not charge around) when they are not involved in a race, I would really appreciate your support in this matter. .

The morning finishes with ice-creams and certificates for everybody.

Parents and family friends can then leave the Abacus children and staff to enjoy a picnic lunch (provided by us) followed by an afternoon of fun and games and the Graduation Ceremony. All children need to be collected by 4pm at the latest.

Graduation ceremony: Monkton Heathfield Village hall at 2.45pm (to 3.45pm)

This event allows us to celebrate the time the children have spent at Nursery and provides an opportunity to wish them fun and happiness at school. Unfortunately although all the downstairs children can attend, we are only inviting the families and

friends of those leaving to start school in September to join us. This part of the day will start at approximately 2.45pm with tea/coffee and will last about an hour. All children need to be collected by 4pm at the latest. Keep your fingers crossed for a dry day!

Staff news - We are delighted to welcome Mia, a new trainee to the team. She has recently finished school so is starting her early years journey with us at Abacus. Bryony will be finishing next Wednesday (sports day/graduation), we wish her all the best in her new position.

Contact details:- Please remember to update your contact details at Nursery if you have moved, changed phone numbers at work etc.

Exit questionnaires - these have been given out to our families with children leaving to start School. We are passionate about continually improving the service we offer and so please do be honest. If you haven't had yours or you have misplaced it please let us know.

Dietary requirements- are always carefully considered. We will be updating our allergy records ready for the new academic year. If we are already meeting your child's needs in line with their food allergy and it hasn't changed no need to get in touch. However if you need to update us please see the office and they will arrange for Heidi to make contact with you.

Nappies and Wipes:- This is really important.... If your child is in nappies please remember to keep a supply of 6 nappies (not pull ups, these mean all lower items of clothing need to be removed to replace) and a pack of wet wipes in your child's nursery bag at all times. When your child's store of these items in the bathrooms run out we can immediately 'top up' with the ones in their bag. You can then top this bag up to ensure we never run out. The majority of our parents are excellent at doing this whilst a very small minority, even after numerous reminders continually forget resulting in a lack of nappies/wipes for their child's use. In future if you arrive minus the nappies/wipes to meet your child's needs we will be asking you to pop to the shop next door.

Transition downstairs - Every child due to move downstairs in September is now enjoying regular visits downstairs in preparation. From Monday 2nd September these children will come straight in and join the downstairs team. In readiness for a smooth start we will let you know in advance their peg logos so you can discuss them on your journey here. Where possible we have kept the same as upstairs. Don't forget to remind yourselves of the new routines they have downstairs i.e. finding their frog picture to self-register and the number dollies. Staff are always available to help and direct but if you come prepared and behave as if you know exactly what to do (even if you don't and are in fact struggling with your 'baby' moving down) you will really be helping to contribute to a smooth transition.

Fees - Parents of School leavers please remember to cancel standing orders/ECredit etc Deposits (minus any outstanding payments) will be returned at sports day or on your child's last day. You will also be given an Abacus Memory stick which you need to keep safe, it contains your child's time at Abacus as recorded on their Tapestry account. In

line with GDPR we will also be returning a number of documents that we deem not appropriate to keep once your child is no longer attending Abacus. We have a checklist of the items we keep and those that are returned to you and will be asking you to sign it to acknowledge this procedure.

New key person (KP) - with children moving downstairs and staff moving rooms and changing days we will need to alter some KP's. Please be reassured that all staff care and nurture all the children at Abacus. The KP is responsible for monitoring development and the record keeping on Tapestry but all of our staff build meaningful relationships with all of the children and are involved in their daily care/play, so if you have a change of keyworker please be assured it will not impact your child's time with us.

'All about me'- These will be sent home mid September for you to complete. The information you provide helps our team plan activities that not only promote your child's next stage of development but also are in line with their interests. A photo of the slip will be put on your child's Tapestry to record this current information. We will do this again at the beginning of each term as we are aware their interests change as your child grows and develops.

Dates for your diary - (to help you plan ahead)

Bank Holiday Monday 26th August - don't forget we are closed. Have a fun day whatever you are doing.

Week beginning 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 and party tea on Thursday 31st Oct.

Parent chats will be offered in the month of November but please do not wait for then if you have any concerns - our door is always open and if we have any concerns we will be in touch with you.

Christmas Nativity and party: Friday 20th December (our last day, which will be 'off site' and shorter than usual for downstairs children, upstairs children remain here as normal) - more details nearer the time.

We reopen on Thursday 2nd January 2020

For some of you this will be your last newsletter and would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your child a smooth and stress free transition into School where we hope they will continue to flourish and most importantly have fun. We thank you for choosing Abacus and hope you have enjoyed your time with us as much as we have enjoyed caring for your children and preparing them for their next stage of development. Please bring your children back to visit us in their school uniforms in September!

Please remember that if you ever need a chat or have any concerns regarding the nursery or your child/children we will do our best to help so please let us know.

Thanks for your continued support
Ruth, Claire and the team 😊