



October 2020

Dear Parents,

October - The children have been enjoying many exciting activities, they have been painting, printing, loving lots of sensory experiences and embracing our Spider and Pumpkin week! We are loving the costumes 😊

Staffing news - Unfortunately our new cook had a change of heart and decided after a few days that she had taken on too much and has sadly left. We will of course update you on how we will proceed but please rest assured that we will make sure that the children always have a well-balanced and nutritious meal. If you know of anyone who has a passion for providing healthy, nutritious, tasty food and is happy to work in a busy, on occasion noisy environment😊 please send them our way. We can provide any training e.g. Food hygiene. On a positive note Charlene who started in September as a supply member of staff has shown such promise she has now started an Early years level two apprenticeship with us! We also welcome Ella who is doing a traineeship until Christmas! We sadly say a temporary goodbye to Michelle on Friday 13th November as she starts her maternity leave. We will of course keep you updated when baby arrives and wish Michelle and Luke much happiness.

Health information - Head lice (seem to like this time of year!); They are a common childhood ailment some children may scratch their heads a lot others may not. Heavy infestation can cause flu-like symptoms (feeling lousy). We ask that you let Nursery know if your child becomes infected and your child does not return to us until you have started treatment and there are no live lice present. If we find eggs or live lice we will call you to collect your child as your child will need to begin treatment. More information can be found on <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Winter coats - please don't forget the clocks have gone back and winter is nearly upon us so your child will need to come in a warm winter coat each day, even if you come by car as we go outside every day, whatever the weather. Due to COVID we will be unable to have a supply of Nursery hats/gloves for your child to use, please provide a named set that can stay in your child's nursery bag.

Nursery fees - The majority of you are absolutely brilliant and pay the correct amount, on time, making my job so much quicker. Thank you, it so appreciated. Unfortunately for a small number of parents I am receiving payments far too late or they are not the right amount. Please note -This is not a moan to new parents who due to their child's start date aren't able to pay in advance immediately. In line with our Pay Policy and Procedure can I ask that all payments are received by the end of the month in advance of the Month you are paying for e.g. Fees for November should be paid by the end of October. A standing order is of course the easiest way. If this is not convenient and you would rather make the payment manually each month please, please email me on ruthcw1962@gmail.com and let me know if your payment will be late or for some reason it is not the correct amount. If I am aware I won't need to go through the rigmarole of checking my records are correct, back through bank statements to ensure I haven't missed your payment etc before I email you to let you know something is wrong. Sorry to moan but managing fee payment's is taking up too much time.... As an example I have tonight emailed 7 families' who's fees for October are still outstanding or incorrect. This happens every month and needs to stop. Thank you for your anticipated understanding and support with this matter.

I would also like to say a big 'thank you' for the part you play in helping us stay 'COVID Free' at Abacus (long may it last). I so hope I haven't jinxed it by saying that - Collecting children promptly if we have concerns at Nursery, getting COVID tests and keeping us updated all helps. This along with supporting us with all the other procedures we've needed to put in place to protect each other hasn't gone unnoticed and is very much appreciated. These are testing times for everybody but by continuing to support each other we can make the journey a little easier.

Dates for your diary:-

Children in Need - Friday 13th 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 11th 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 celebrations will of course sadly need to be different this year. Our thoughts at the moment is to have Christmas parties during the mornings of Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December here at Nursery (upstairs and down). For the children who don't attend either of these mornings we invite you to join us on the Monday morning (unfortunately the Tuesday is already very busy). We are thinking 10/10.30 and stay for party lunch. Specific time and cost (for those children attending extra) will be confirmed nearer the time.

Kind regards,

Ruth, Claire and the team

P.S. All requests for donations are of course optional

Our contact details: wru343@aol.com
01823 288681



NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

OFSTED: 0300 1231231

Preventing Radicalisation & extremism in Somerset: 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