September 2021

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us this term. We hope you will be very happy during your time with us, if you have any queries please let us know and we will do our very best to help. We do have some (limited) sessions available if your child would benefit from some 'extras' to help them settle, if you are considering increasing once your child is settled or even an 'adhoc' session if that would be useful. Please see the office and we will do all we can to support this.

Staff - We would like to say a huge Congratulations to both Sophie and Olivia for gaining their recent qualifications, photos are on our Facebook page 😊 Well done ladies!

Safeguarding/SEND – Just a reminder that Claire, and Emma are the Safeguarding Designated Leads and SENCOs at nursery, if you wish to discuss/raise any matter/concerns please speak to us, we are happy to help. Emma tends to lead the SENCO role and Claire Safeguarding but both ladies can help 😊

Tapestry – Just a reminder that we aim to add to your child's Tapestry each week. However, if we have staff off (sickness and holidays) we will always prioritse the children's care and learning which can result in a slight delay in uploading their Tapestry for you to view. We are sure you will agree that this is far more important. We will of course always do our best to ensure it doesn't happen too often. Please don't forget to add photos and comments about their wonderful adventures at home, this will help to make the journal a true account of their early years and it of course helps us get to know your child even better.

Clothing – Now the weather is on the change please make sure the items of spare clothing in your child's nursery bag is appropriate and named. We play out in all weathers so a waterproof coat is a must. When the weather cools please remember that due to Covid we still need to ensure we are ventilating the building so windows will be open over the winter, your child will need an extra layer to help keep them warm. We would also like you to send in a winter hat for us to keep over the winter months. Children upstairs should wear non slip socks when it starts to get a little colder please!

Lullaby Trust - Their website is very informative, they provide expert advice on safer sleep for babies so please take a look if you think it may help in your house at bedtime 😊
https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/

Parent Chats – We are hoping to invite you in for a parent chat during November but will make a final decision next month dependent on Covid numbers etc. Please remember we would always get in touch with you if we had anything worrying us about your child's development, and then offer the appropriate support.

Increase in cases of respiratory illness – In Somerset we are seeing an increase in severe respiratory illness in children as restrictions ease and people mix more, with cases higher than usual for this time of year and further increases expected over winter months. Parents are encouraged to look out for symptoms of severe respiratory infection in at-risk children, including a high temperature of 37.8°C or above (fever), a dry and persistent cough, difficulty feeding, rapid or noisy breathing (wheezing). While respiratory infections are common in children, last winter saw much fewer infections in younger people due to COVID-19 restrictions. This means that many will not have developed immunity and may be at higher risk of severe illness. We may also see more cases than in a typical season. For most children, these illnesses will not be serious, and they will soon recover following rest and plenty of fluids. Most cases of bronchiolitis are not serious and clear up within 2 to 3 weeks, but parents should contact their GP or call NHS 111 if:

- Their child struggles to breathe.
- Their child has taken less than half their usual amount during the last 2 or 3 feeds, or they have had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more.
- The child has a persistent high temperature of 37.8C or above.

Some children under 2, especially those born prematurely or with a heart condition, can suffer more serious consequences from these common respiratory infections. Find out more about the symptoms and what to do at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bronchiolitis/causes

Birthday Cake - although the children do love sharing their birthday cakes at nursery can you please check the ingredients, we ask that they do not come in if they contain nuts (please double check the ingredient's, we will have to check at the door and send home if it even contains traces). 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. We also have lots of children with dairy intolerances! We believe Asda do a great nut free and free from range 😊

Christmas – We will have Christmas parties on the last three afternoons before our Christmas closure, but if your child doesn't usually attend they will be invited to the Monday afternoon party (cost will be confirmed later). Watch this space for more information!

Dates for your diary:-

Harvest Festival - Foodbanks rely on goodwill and support so as part of our Harvest Festival we are supporting Taunton Food bank and would like to provide donations of packaged foods. If you would like your child to bring in something from the list below they can proudly add it to our Harvest display on their arrival. The food bank needs: Coffee, tea, sugar, squash, Weetabix, cereals, spam, corned beef, tinned meat pies, tinned garden peas, carrots, mixed vegetables, tins of custard. Please check everything is in date. Items can be brought in from October 1st until October 8th. We will be planning lots of activities with the children to celebrate Harvest time such as leaf rubbing and farm play!

Week beginning Monday 25th 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 Friday 29th Oct.

Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper' week to take place week beginning the 6th December – more info to follow

Christmas Closure – we close at 6pm on Wednesday 22nd December and open again on Tuesday 4th January. Details about Christmas parties to follow

One last reminder – it is still important that you keep an eye on your child's Tapestry for any Covid related updates. It is really important that we all follow latest Gov advice, we really do appreciate your support with this. With us all committed to reducing the spread we have a much better chance of remaining open.

An extra big thank you for your anticipated continued support

Claire, Emma & the Team 😊

Our contact details: abacuschildrensnursery@outlook.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