



# Spateston Early Learning and Childcare Centre

## Autumn Newsletter 2021



We are now reaching the halfway point of our first term of this academic year and we are delighted that all children are happy, settled and loving their play experiences within our exciting learning environment. They have embraced the opportunities within the zones they are in: Discovery and Creative or Imagination and Social. We have started to gather all the achievements they have been making in their 'Learning Journey Books' and look forward to sharing this with you over the next few months. It is important to us that we continue to link with our families and share with you the interest's children have. We hope to develop the depth of children's interests through extending the opportunities between nursery and home, connecting with you will help us to do this. It is part of our development priorities this year to look at how we make this happen using a creative and interactive approach. Watch out for more information as we share ideas and continue to develop this aspect of our practice.

### Operational Changes

After the October break we will be merging the two bubbles we have allowing the children to access their play across all learning zones. This is very exciting for us all. To explain how this will work we have attached a letter detailing everything you need to know. It has always been our priority to ensure we keep everyone safe, and this continues as we alter our setup to fall in line with recent Scottish Government guidance.

### Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome new staff to our team. Our new clerical officer is Rachel MacColl. We have two new Early Learning and Childcare Officers, Kara Carson and Amanda Keenan working part time. Tracy Corrigan is our new Early Learning and Childcare Support Worker. Our students from West College Scotland have also started their placement with us, they are Tracy Potts and George McAlpine (HNC) and Leanne Watson (HND). We have a new Modern Apprentice Maggie with us meaning that Jodie has moved to a new placement as part of her training. We are very sad that Emma Boyle will be leaving our team at the end of October. We will all miss her so much, but we wish her all the very best in her new venture. We know that she will always have a connection with Spateston as she takes on her new role.

### Term Time Holiday

The service will be closed to term time children week beginning Monday 11 October 2021 unless you have a wraparound agreement in place. We will reopen to all children as normal on Tuesday 19 October 2021.

### In Service Day

The service will be closed to all children on Monday 18 October 2021 for a staff training day.

### Dolly Parton Imagination Library

We are delighted that we now have 100% of our children signed up to receive a free book from the imagination library. We will be purchasing the books children are receiving so that we can develop their interest of the story in nursery as well as them having this opportunity at home.

### Photographer

We are delighted to have the photographer, Graeme Hewitson, come to the nursery on Thursday 21 October 2021 and Friday 22 October 2021. If your child does not attend on these days and you would like them to have their photograph taken, then please contact us so that we can arrange for them to come in.

### Clothing

This is just a reminder to check with staff that your child has plenty spare clothes at their peg. The children spend a lot of time outdoors and taking part in messy experiences that results in them needing to be changed. Remember wearing older clothes to nursery is ideal!

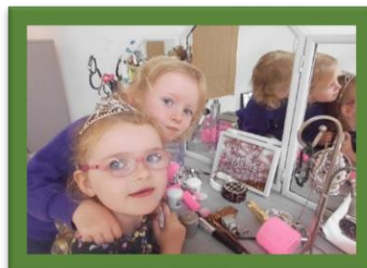
### Uniform

Our new uniform can be purchased at: [www.spatestonelcc.co.uk](http://www.spatestonelcc.co.uk) it has been designed with the new logo and colours based on our philosophy and supports the indoor and outdoor experiences on offer for the children. Please remember that it is not essential to purchase this. We will continue to have a mix of the older style uniform; children's own clothes and the new uniform being worn within the setting.

Please have a look at the fantastic learning that has been happening so far!

Within our Social and Imagination Zones the children have had many opportunities to explore and investigate water, looking at how it flows and how they can use loose parts to stop and start the flow of water using a variety of materials and guttering to channel water down. Our new 'potion station' has been a huge hit and children seem to be very imaginative as they create a variety of new recipes and concoctions, using different herbs and flowers from our sensory herb garden. Indoors, the curiosity has been continuing as the children bake scones and bread with Stacey who is referred to by the children as, "the baking lady". Children have been adding different fruits to their scones and sharing their likes and dislikes as they taste what they have made. Within our garden area we have been researching growing and planting indoors and out, developing an understanding for the world around us and how we are responsible for the living and growing things in our environment. Some children have been talking to us about photosynthesis. This is something that we will be continuing to research further over the next few months.

Exploring the forest, the children have been collecting slugs, grasshoppers, caterpillars, and many other mini beasts. Collecting the mini beasts led their interest to learning about where animals live within the forest and what they need to survive in their natural habitat. An interest in worms led to the children comparing size and making their own wormery. Collecting brambles, the children created their own point for mark making, not forgetting the 'mouse soup' they made. As Autumn is here the children have been noticing the change in leaves and how they have fallen from the trees. Comparing shape, size, and colours they have been able to enact our story of interest, 'Leaf Man'. Developing our knowledge on trees children have been researching using an app called 'Leaf Snap'.



Within our Creative and Imagination Zones the children have been enjoying exploring the variety of learning experiences on offer in the playroom, outside and going to the forest. Some of them have showed a particular interest in mark making using paint, pencils, chalk, and water. They have also been transporting water from the trough to different areas in the garden. Some of the children have also been transporting stones in wheelbarrows. They have shown a particular interest in stones. We have been comparing sizes and we will be using stones for self-registration. All our children will have a stone (collected especially from the beach) that is unique to them and this will then enable them, given time for our younger children, to recognise their name and is the beginning of early phonological awareness. The children have been spending time at the block play, work bench and our outdoor scrapyard as well as going to the forest. Some of the children have been making wonderful creations at the block play such as caves, castles, ramps and so much more. At our work bench the children have been hammering, sawing, and screwing together some wonderful masterpieces. We have some joiners and architects in our horizon. The scrapyard is a popular playing place and the children like role playing in the playhouse, there have been pirates as well as shop keepers. Their imagination continues to take them to all sorts of places. We have even had a restaurant (bring your purse). Our children are so engrossed with our fairy garden and our fairies have even left them a special letter. Discovery children also have a unique stone for self-registration.