



Spateston Early Learning and Childcare Centre



Winter Newsletter 2023

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter 2023! Remember all practitioners are available to speak to you as you drop off and collect children from nursery, please ask if you can't find someone you are looking for. Unity and connectedness are what our philosophy is based on and building relationships is central to that so chat with us anytime. We have a few exciting dates for the diary so please read on to find out more!



Parents Evenings

Parents evenings will commence week beginning 27th November and can be noted as follows:

Family Group 1- 29th November 2023

Family Group 2- 28th November 2023

Family Group 3- 27th November 2023



Don't worry if you can't remember your child's family group, as their keyworker will be in touch nearer the time to make a suitable agreement with you.

Parking

This is a gentle reminder to keep everyone safe! Please avoid double parking on Hallhill Road, historically this has created complaints within the local community, and we want to avoid this becoming an ongoing issue. If the drop off point is full, we would encourage families to use the community car park beside the Spateston Inn.

Term Time Holiday

The service will be closed to all term time children Thursday 30th November 2023 for St Andrews Day and normal service will resume Friday 1st December 2023 for all our children.

Christmas Holiday

The service will be closed to all children on Friday 22nd December and will return as normal on the 8th January. We will be in touch with more information regarding specific children's placement allocations over this time.



Supper with Santa

Our exciting Supper with Santa is returning this year and will commence mid December 2023. All children will receive a personal invite in due course with more information on this.

Family Group 1- 18th December 2023

Family Group 2- 19th December 2023

Family Group 3- 20th December 2023



Parent Pay

The voluntary contribution of £5 each month is payable through parent pay. If you are having trouble signing up, please speak with Rachel in the office. We appreciate all donations, it supports us with the baking, gardening, and outings in the community that the children do regularly. We thank you for your continued support.

Photographer

The Photographer will be at the nursery all day on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December should you wish for your child's individual picture to be taken throughout their session.

Donations

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our families for their generous donations towards our Sponsored Autumn Trail 2023. These donations are greatly appreciated by all the team here at Spateston and will contribute towards making the festive season extra special for all our children and families. We continue to reach out to our families and ask for support from any local businesses in the hopes they can contribute to our Spateston Christmas Raffle. As always, any donations big or small are truly appreciated.



Christmas Market

Spateston at Christmas time is truly magical! Each year Spateston ELCC thrive for the best experiences for all our children and families to enjoy. This year we are excited to announce the return of our very own Spateston Christmas Market! From festive treats for the whole family to enjoy, Spateston Christmas Market offers a variety of activities, entertainment, food and drinks and so much more, there will be something for everyone! The event will be open to all our families on Wednesday 6th December from 5pm to 6.30pm here at Spateston. So... grab a hot chocolate, get wrapped up cosy and get ready to start the festive season in true Spateston style, at our very own Spateston Christmas Market!



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



Within our Social Zone the children have been interested in the "Pumpkin Soup" story. This story has been popular across all zones following on from the children's Halloween interest and has in particular sparked the children's baking and cooking skills within the social zone. This interest has led onto the children wanting to make their own soup using their own ingredients. Working in collaboration with the Imagination Zone, the children have been using the laptops to food shop online. With support from staff the children were learning all about online shopping and the advantages this brings. The children were able to identify the ingredients that they needed to make their soup, while learning about the concept of spending money online safely. Children were then keen to create their own recipe book with the knowledge they had gained from this experience. Once the ingredients are ordered and received the children will have the experience of making their soup using their chosen ingredients.

Exploring the outdoors, the children have been learning all about fire safety as they explore the campfire within the garden. Alongside learning about the dangers of fire, the children are exploring their boundaries on how to keep themselves safe around the campfire. Staff are passing on their fire expertise, as the children toast their marshmallows on the open flames. Children are exploring their curiosity skills by asking questions as they embrace their outdoor learning environment with their friends, where they have been singing songs around the campfire.

Within our Discovery Zone the children have been keen to research and build large sculptures using the big blocks and loose parts. The children have been working alongside one another when using the iPad to research the shapes and sizes of their sculptures that they wanted to build. The children have been sketching and designing their models and sculptures prior to building them, to spark and enhance their problem-solving skills. Recognising their 3D shapes/blocks, the children have been exposed to mathematical language, as they discuss the number of blocks that were needed to create their sculptures. The children have been learning about symmetry throughout this experience, as they use their positional language skills to discuss the best positions for the blocks to prevent them from tumbling down. Once the sculptures (houses, cars, thrones, dens etc) are created the children often take great pride in explaining what they have built. The children are developing their teamwork and communication skills as they share and negotiate their play spaces and their resources with their peers. The children are often seen roleplaying with their creation once they have built, enhancing their individual imagination skills.



In the Covered Area the children have created their very own Spateston shop using loose parts. The children have been using their imagination to produce and sell items to their peers, such as stones, conkers, leaves and sticks. The children have been role playing as shop keepers and customers as they sell their natural goods. Children have been exploring the concept of money and have been creating pricelists for their items. The children have been working as part of a team, as they explore their curiosity when thinking about the real shops that they have been too within their community. Children were able to relate their thinking back to their own personal experiences at the shops and express their thoughts and opinions throughout. When researching, children were able to identify a variety of shops on the iPad using the supermarket logo as a clue. The children have thoroughly enjoyed transferring their existing skills and knowledge they have to their role play situation within the covered area. The children are keen to explore their interest further with a local trip down to the Spateston shops to enhance their buying and selling skills and knowledge.



In the Imagination Zone the children have shown an interest in making soup after reading the 'Pumpkin Soup' story. From this the children have been researching soup recipes using technology to find their perfect 'pumpkin soup' recipe. Children have been exploring their curiosity as they investigate the different ingredients that they will need to make their soup and problem solve how much of each ingredient they require. We are so excited to watch this process unfold as children take a trip to the local shops for their ingredients and share their yummy soup with their peers. Our children have also been expressing themselves through music within the imagination area, where they have been singing nursery rhymes and dancing to the music with help from our Spateston Alexa. The children have thoroughly enjoyed singing and dancing alongside their friends, where they are often seen talking and laughing with one another as they make special memories.

