



# Spateston Early Learning and Childcare Centre

## Autumn Newsletter 2024



We would like to welcome all our families into the start of a new term within Spateston Early Learning and Childcare Centre. We are delighted that all our lovely children are settling into the nursery and having great fun as they explore our amazing learning environment. They are making new friendships and rekindling ones formed last year! We have lots of exciting opportunities for the children to experience on a daily basis and are very keen that all our families are part of their children's learning journey. 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 dates for the diary so please read on to find out more!

### Dates for diary

#### September weekend:

The nursery is closed to all children Friday 27 September and Monday 30 September 2024

#### Pyjama day:

9<sup>th</sup> October 2024: all day

#### Inservice day:

The nursery is closed to all children Friday 11 October 2024

#### October Week

The nursery is closed to all term time children the week of the 14 October 2024. A normal service will resume for all children on Monday 21 October 2024

#### Pop in and See

22 October 2024: 10am-11am

24 October 2024: 4pm-5pm

#### Parents Evenings

12, 13 and 14 November 2024: there will be more details to follow

#### Christmas Market

5 December 2024: 4pm-5.30pm

#### Christmas Party

18 and 19 December 2024: there will be more details to follow

### 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.

### Parent Pay

The voluntary contribution of £5 each month is payable through parent pay. If you are having trouble signing up, please speak with Agnes 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.

### Our New Allotment

Within the Spateston Environment, we have been continuing to develop our 'Growing Connections: Putting Our Garden at the Heart of the Community' project, where we have been developing our community allotment space at the rear of our setting. We have created a growing space, for our children to explore and enhance their understanding of the natural world as they grow their own fruit, vegetables and herbs. The space will, over time become a community space to share, learn and develop skills together. We can't wait to share this amazing space with you all. If anyone has any particular expertise and wishes to support us in this project, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

### Children's Belongings


We kindly ask for all you child's belongings to be clearly labelled with their name. As we are a large establishment with lots of children, we appreciate and understand that children may have similar items of clothing if not the same. By labelling all belongings including shoes and jumpers, we can ensure these are returned to the correct child. We would also ask that you ensure your child has plenty changes of clothes available with lots of socks in their bag. The wet weather means that there can be numerous changes throughout the day!




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




Within our Social Zone the children have been enjoying making scones, bread and jam. Some of our returning children have been exceptional in role modelling and demonstrating their baking skills to the younger children allowing them to explore and get involved in baking. Children are learning all about different types of measurement as they weigh out the ingredients required. Children are showing compassion and kindness to one another as they bake, where they have been observed praising one another for their great work. Children are learning about the safety of the social zone and the importance of having good listening ears to keep themselves and others safe. Most recently some of our children have been researching about fly catcher plants and the purpose these have in catching bugs and insects. The children have been further researching these plants, which has enhanced the children's knowledge and understanding of technology.




Within the Outdoor Zone, the children are learning all about responsibility. Both staff and children have been discussing the importance of looking after our learning environment to ensure we are keeping one another safe in a clean environment. Most recently, the children have been participating in litter picks, both in the garden and out in the wider community. The children have been participating in conversations about recycling and are keen to explore this further by researching how we as a nursery can improve our recycling habits. Our children have been enjoying exploring the outdoors and have most recently been discussing their love for the Gruffalo. The children have been using a variety of loose parts to recreate their favourite parts of the story while outdoors and they are very keen to see if they can track down the Gruffalo himself!



Within our Discovery Zone the children have been developing their risk-taking skills as they explore the block area. Navigating their play spaces, the children are learning to turn take and share their interests with one another. Our children are keen to use the different shaped blocks to construct their own houses, where they have been discussing the shapes, sizes, and type of houses they have made. Developing new language as they play, the children have been relating to their lives at home, talking about their families, pets, and favourite things to do. Following on from the children's discussion about shapes, they have been identified that a circle also looks like a compass. This sparked the children's curiosity as they explored what a compass is and its purpose and related this to places and countries in the world. Our practitioners are keen to develop this interest by introducing a map and globe of the world. We are excited to discover the wonders of the world with the children.



In the Covered Area the children have been participating in discussions regarding their emotions and the emotions of others. Children have been keen to share how they feel and reflect upon what makes them feel a specific way. Children are learning all about their rights within the environment and how it is important to respect one another as they play and to be considerate of others. Children continue to build positive relationships with one another as they explore.



In the Imagination Zone the children have been using a variety of loose parts to enhance their imagination skills within the home corner. Some of our children have been observed role playing as waitresses, chefs, mummies and daddies as they play alongside their peers. Children have also been keen to explore Julia Donaldson stories, where they are able to express their favourite parts, explain their likes and dislikes and even recreate the story in the small world area. Continuing to use their imagination skills, the children have the opportunity to create their own stories and characters at the writing table. Children are inspired and motivated to think creatively using their imagination and are then encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings with their peers.

In the Creative Zone the children have learning all about primary colours as they help to mix and explore the paints. As they do so, the children have been fascinated as they watch the colours and consistency of their paint change from a powder to liquid form. The children have then been mark making with their paint using a variety of recourses to create their very own creative masterpiece! The children have also been busy exploring, 'The Paper dolls' story, where they have been participating in conversations relating to their own families. The children have been keen to listen to the story and transfer their skills into creating their own paper dolls. Using their imagination, children have been able to design their dolls in a way that is relevant to them, where they are able to express themselves freely and confidently.

