



Spateston Early Learning and Childcare Centre

Summer Newsletter 2025



We have been reflecting on this academic year and can't believe that we are at the stage where we are talking about leaver's ceremonies and children moving on to school, it is coming around very fast! At Spateston we take great pride in the opportunities and experiences that are available for all children within our learning environment, this past year has been no exception. Reading the learning stories written about our individual children we have seen them be musicians, scientists, architects, bakers, writers and joiners. The skills that they have developed have allowed their interests to become projects within the nursery and many of these have been connected to the outdoors. Planting seeds that have become our crops that have become the focaccia bread and the tomato scones that the children have loved eating in nursery and at home has been exciting. Foraging in the forest has allowed the children to create jam and deserts using the brambles they picked. Making soup on the fire has given the children important knowledge and skills to take forward with them. We are looking forward to continuing the exciting journey with the children who will be returning to us next year but are very proud of the children leaving us to go to school. The skills they have developed will ensure that in school they continue to shine in their new learning environment.



Parents Meetings

Parents' meetings are being held week beginning 19 May 2025.

Family Group 1: Monday 19 May 2025; Family Group 2: Tuesday 20 May 2025; Family Group 3: Wednesday 21 May 2025.

We are very much looking forward to sharing your child's learning at nursery with you and for those children going to school their transfer of information report will be available. Please make sure you speak with your child's keyworker if you don't already have an appointment time.



Leavers Ceremony

We are planning to celebrate with the children who are moving on to school by holding two small celebrations across the morning of Saturday 21 June 2025 so please, save the date! They will receive their special invitation at the parents meeting. We would be delighted if they came along with two family members for a short presentation followed by refreshments. A photographer will be attending on the day to capture this special moment.

Transition Programme

The transition visits for all the feeder schools are in place. We have either had visits or about to have visits from the teachers within the primary schools where your children are going. They have loved coming to see the environment the children are coming from and meeting with them to talk about what they like learning about. Each school has their own transition programme, and you should have had information from them about this.

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome our new support worker Poki to our team. She will be with us for the next year covering a maternity leave. We are currently going through the process of recruiting a further two support workers and will keep you updated on our progress with this.

Holidays

The service will be closed to all children on Friday 23 May 2025 for an in-service day and Monday 26 May 2025 for a public holiday. All term time children will finish for the summer holidays on Friday 27 June 2025. Children attending all year round will be notified individually of their last day of attendance prior to starting school. There is a public holiday for those attending over the summer months on Monday 4 August 2025. There will be in service training days on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 August 2025 and the new term starts on Monday 18 August 2025.

Improvement Celebrations

We are always wanting to improve our service and the quality of our practice. Our annual improvement plan supports us to do this throughout the year. We have been working hard on creating our very own 'Children's Charter' that focuses on our children's rights. They have worked hard to produce our final document, and this is now embedded throughout our practice and can be seen, heard and observed. Our other priority is our allotment space, the progress we have made despite our challenge with the storm, has been a real asset to the children's learning. We are planning a celebration 'drop in' event from 4.15pm to 5.45pm on Wednesday 11 June 2025 for all families. You can come into the nursery and see our journey across both priorities whilst chatting with the staff. There will be plants for sale in the allotment for you to purchase. To allow us to open this up for all we would appreciate if you have children who stay later in the day that, if you are able, you could collect them by 4pm. You would then be able to go around and look at our achievements with them. Please let one of the SLT know if this would not be possible that day.

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

Within our Imagination Zone the children have been interested in the Julia Donaldson story of 'Jack and the FlumFlum Tree'. The rhyme within the story is supporting the children with phonological awareness. Some children, however, have been focused on the illustrations and the patchwork sack within the book has been a topic of discussion. There was suggestion that they could sew their own patchwork sack, and this has evolved into them designing their own patches and creating different patterns. Hand stitching and the sewing machine have been used to create it. Vocabulary associated with the sewing machine has been introduced including the spool, threading the spool, reversing and the presser foot. The children have continued to discuss patterns and suggested they make a dress. They have used stencils to draw the template and measured it to ensure it would fit., they even included pockets as part of the design. A variety of stitches including long stitch, short stitch and cross stitch were used after researching on the iPad. The dress is now part of the dressing up area, another really good example of the children learning about sustainability!

Within our Social Zone the children have been making their own butter after watching a video to understand the process. They discovered that they needed double cream, and they should use an electric mixer, the children realised that this kind of mixer is much quicker than a rotary whisk. As the double cream got thicker the colour changes from white to yellow leaving a buttermilk at the bottom of the bowl that the children thought could be used within other recipes. The children loved spreading the butter on their crackers saying it was 'the best butter they had ever tasted' but suggesting that salt could be added to it or garlic to make garlic butter. The children love exploring new recipes and creating their snack menu and a shopping list for their food order from the supermarket. There have been comparing prices as they realised that the 'Cathedral City' cheese was more expensive than another brand they could buy, they are realising the concept of money, better value and growing their own. These are all skills for life!

Within our Creative Zone the children have been introduced to the artist Helen Frankenthaler who is known for her work using bold colours, abstract and soak-stain painting. The children have been creating their own patterns using a tie dye technique and transferred this to fabric design by creating their own unique t-shirts. Experimenting with different natural materials has supported their ideas, the children have used flowers to obtain colour and used this to dye their garments. Creating the pattern has involved the children soaking the t-shirt and then squeezing out the excess water. They have then tied ribbon tightly around areas of it to create the pattern. Science has been part of this process and experimenting with colour, reflection using cellophane paper in the sun has been a provocation for children being an artist designing their own sunset with shades of orange and yellow paint! There have been lots of creative concepts being developed in our own art studio!

Within our Discovery Zone the children have been building a variety of vehicles, this has included a 'jet blaster plane'. Small blocks have been put alongside bigger blocks to bring their imagination to life. An engine for the plane was added after the children investigated plane engines on the internet. The other vehicles being designed are bespoke cars like a 'Lamborghini' that 'doesn't need an engine as it has a button'. This interest has moved outdoors where speed has been the focus of their play, designing sand ramps in the sandpit and testing the speed the cars go down them. The comparison in speed has moved to the guttering, problem solving how to join the gutters together so that the cars going down them don't lose any speed.

Within our Outdoor Zone the children have been making menus for the mud kitchen. They have been having discussion about the nutrients in our diet especially protein. This has led to calories in food, tracking calories and healthy eating including fruit such as blueberries, bananas and making them into smoothies. The children have been picking the mint they have grown in the garden and used it to flavour the water they have been drinking. Lemons and oranges have provided different flavours in the water for them to try, lots of water in the sunshine has been consumed because of this! We can't wait to show you what we have been making with dandelions, our video of this experience will be shared soon.

Sponsored Bounce

We are planning to have a fun 'sponsored bounce' on Wednesday 25 June 2025. The children can have the chance to jump as many times as they can on the bouncy castles and then enjoy a special treat afterwards. We are sure they will have the energy to bounce and bounce and bounce! If your child is not in on a Wednesday, you are welcome to speak with their keyworker and organise to bring them in for a bouncing session that day. This will be a fun day that the children will enjoy and allow us to raise some funds for our annual refurbishment of resources after a busy 2024/25, setting us up for session 2025/26!

As always, your support is hugely appreciated in helping us create the best quality experiences for our Spateston children.

