



Spateston Early Learning and Childcare Centre



Spring Newsletter 2026



We have had a very positive start to 2026 and are delighted that the children who started with us in January and February have all settled in. We have had a few more children join us in March making our Spateston family complete for this academic year. The children have been loving their experiences within our play environment and the amazing stories that staff have been documenting about their learning are wonderful. Please remember and share with us how the children extend their learning at home by emailing us photographs, sending your child's keyworker an email or going on to learning links. The 'learning tree' at the front door will let you see how families are doing this and how we extend children's interests because of the connections we have. It adds value to the children's learning, and we just love when we have the links going back and forth.

Book Bug Pjama Day

We are having a Bookbug Pjama Day at Spateston ELC on Thursday 26th March 2026. Children are welcome to come to nursery wearing their pyjamas so we can enjoy a cosy day celebrating stories and reading with Bookbug. We will have special visitors joining us to read stories, and there will be lots of opportunities for children to take part in fun storytelling sessions and experiences. We would also love to welcome parents and carers to join us during the day to share a favourite story with the children. If you would like to come in and read a story, please speak to a member of staff so we can arrange a suitable time. We are looking forward to a wonderful day full of stories, imagination and cosy reading time!

Transition Programme

Some of the children who are moving on to primary school in August have started their visits. Each of the primary schools have their own programme in place and they will be in contact with you directly to provide their details. We will have our own programme with the schools and will be taking the children on additional visits as well as inviting their teachers into the nursery. These visits have already started to happen.

Diary Dates

Parents Meetings

The parent's meetings will take place week beginning 18th of May 2026. These will be spread over the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday that week. Your child's keyworker will be in touch nearer the time to make a suitable appointment time with you.

Leavers Ceremony

The leavers ceremony for children going to school will be on Saturday 20th of June 2026. There will be invitations nearer the time with all the details. This event is a lovely celebration, so we like you to have the date well in advance!

Bookbug & Library

Our The children have been delighted to have Bookbug as a regular visitor in the nursery with sessions most afternoons. They have been sharing songs, rhymes, and stories and even learning some Makaton. To complement this, the children have been having visits to the local library where Bookbug can sometimes pop in.

We are hoping to have some reading buddies and guest readers in the coming weeks.

Staff Team Update

We have recently recruited two new support workers. Roberta Buchanan started working with us on the 23rd of February as our temporary support worker cover for Erin who is now on maternity leave. Jennifer Leckie started with us on Monday the 2nd of March as our new permanent Support Worker. Bethany Cochrane is now on maternity leave. We are very fortunate that some of our part time staff have been working additional hours to temporarily support the changes we have been going through.

Spring Holidays

The nursery will be closed to all term time children from Friday 3rd of April 2026 until Friday 17th of April 2026 inclusive. All other children will continue their normal placements at this time except Friday 3rd of April 2026 and Monday 6th of April 2026 when we will be closed for the public holiday. All children return on Monday 20th of April 2026. The centre will be closed to all children on Monday 4th of May 2026 for a public holiday, Thursday 7th of May 2026 for an in-service day and Monday 25th of May 2026 for a public holiday.

Nursery Resources

Thanks to your huge generosity we have been able to spend some money on the nursery environment and purchase some lovely new resources. This is creating wonderful opportunities for children's learning and engagement, and the children have been very excited to explore what is available.

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

Within our Imagination Zone the children have been interested in our story bags, taking on the role of storyteller, and even director, as they have guided the other children in acting out the story with the props. Our story dice have been a big hit and have led to the children creating their own stories with lots of detail. The children have been exploring families and what their family means to them, with the babies being cared for and bathed. This led to discussions about how we need to keep ourselves clean and healthy and brush our teeth. The children turned the home into 'Café Ginger' for a short time and talked about how they needed a manager. This led to discussions about cafes that they have been to and how they have paid for their food, with the children identifying different payment methods and types of money and coins.

Within our Social Zone the children have been making amazing scones and bread and have expanded to making some wonderful jam and cakes too. Fresh pasta was made from scratch with a lovely tomato sauce after the children had been roleplaying making dinner in the home area. This involved the children using new techniques and tools, such as the pasta machine. For Chinese New Year, our wonderful support worker Po-ki shared with the children some of the ways that she and her family celebrate this time of year. The children did some research using the iPad and wanted to make their own Chinese food. They made some lovely noodles and decided to share these out with all their friends. They practised using chopsticks with their noodles and also made some egg fried rice. Po-ki introduced the children to some Chinese letters and writing and the children had a go at copying some of these, developing their mark making skills while learning about Chinese culture.

One of the children asked to make a K-Pop Demon Hunter cake. Together with some of her friends, they ordered and purchased the tools and ingredients they needed. They then made their cake, the jam filling and the icing too. Once it was ready the cake was shared out around the nursery, and I can confirm, it was delicious.

Within our Creative Zone the children have been exploring the style of different artists, such as Jackson Pollock and have experimented with splatter art effects, using paintbrushes. Through discussion and collaboration, the children helped thread string into a bottle and experimented with moving the bottle in different ways, which created a much greater splatter effect. This process encouraged problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork. Within the clay area, the children have been exploring different textures and understanding how the water impacts the clay. They have been creating caterpillars and extended their learning further by making cocoons, demonstrating sustained engagement and imaginative thinking. Early scientific and mathematical thinking were well supported by the children's exploration into stained glass windows and creating their own. They problem-solved and experimented to find the best method of making their windows and the results were fantastic.

Within our Discovery Zone the children have extended their interest in Chinese New Year, by deciding to create a Chinese restaurant. They built their restaurant and brought some noodles from the social zone to sell and serve in the restaurant. The children then did some research into why Chinese New Year is celebrated at this time and discovered that it is because it is seen as a time of new growth. This then led to the children finding the story of the first new year and finding out more about Chinese traditions. The Great Wall of China was built with the blocks as the children explored pictures of one of the great wonders of the world.

In the calm area the children have been very focussed on rhymes and rhyming. Some of the children decided they wanted to plan their own show, and have started writing a script for this, talking about what roles will be needed. They have also talked about making costumes at the sewing area and tickets in the creative zone.

Within our Outdoor Zone the children have continued their interest in Chinese New Year by mark making Chinese letters in the mud using chopsticks. They learned that Chinese letters and symbols are called logographs or Hanzì. The mark making moved onto numerals and the children showed good numerical awareness, recognising and naming them and then asking Po-ki to write them in Chinese too. With discussions of China and how far away it is, the children started talking about other places that are far away, with one of the children sharing his experience of visiting Korea. In the outdoor block area, the children have been building fire engines and talking about fire fighters. This led to discussions about who would help us in an emergency and how we would get help.

