



Spateston Early Learning and Childcare Centre

Summer Newsletter 2026



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 storytellers. 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.

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 18 May 2026.

Family Group 1: Tuesday 19 May 2026; Family Group 2: Wednesday 20 May 2026; Family Group 3: Thursday 21 May 2026. 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 20 June 2026 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 announce our new permanent senior ELCO is Megan. She has already been doing a wonderful job covering the role and we are so happy that she will be continuing with this permanently.

Holidays

The service will be closed to all children on Monday 4 May 2026 for a public holiday, Thursday 7 May Friday 2026 for an in-service day and Monday 25 May 2026 for a public holiday. There may also be a public holiday on Monday 15 June 2026. We will let you know when this is confirmed. All term time children will finish for the summer holidays on Tuesday 30 June 2026. 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 3 August 2026. There will be in service training days on Friday 14 August 2026 and Monday 17 August 2026 and the new term starts on Tuesday 18 August 2026.

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 ensuring the nursery is a nurturing environment for all children and have now applied for our Ruby award in Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach. The children have been excited to take on the role of Rights Respecting Officers, making sure our children's voices are heard in everything we do. We have also been working hard using the Reading Schools programme, developed by the Scottish Book Trust, and have applied for accreditation in this. This has involved embedding stories and books in all areas of the nursery and building a love of reading in our children and staff. As a link to this we have had members of staff trained in Book bug, who have been providing these sessions on a regular basis for the children. It has been amazing to see how much joy and engagement the children have had as a result.

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

Within our Imagination Zone the children have been interested in creating their own stories and drawing pictures to go with these. Their drawings are showing increasing detail, and the children have shown great skill in sequencing them, showing an understanding of the structure of a story, with a beginning, middle and end. The Hungry Caterpillar featured greatly in this area and, as part of this, the children also researched the life cycle of a caterpillar. In the home area the children were roleplaying families, making meals for each other and exploring the variety of daily routines they all have, and where they are similar. In the sewing area the children were inspired by the talk of butterflies and decided to create their own. The focus for the children was on how to thread the needles for sewing and how to do a running stitch. This then led to a number of children asking to make bows. They watched a tutorial on how to do this and then handstitched their own. Finally they used the glue gun to attach their bows to bobbles, and were delighted with the finished results.

Within our Social Zone the children have been looking at sustainability, using up leftover food, rather than wasting it, and finding ways to use the things we grow in the garden. This has resulted in some wonderful creations in the kitchen, such as nettle pesto, dandelion shortbread, lemon balm tea and lavender shortbread. Scones, bread and jam have not been forgotten and have still been part of the regular Social Zone experience, but it has been exciting to see what recipes the children will find next, and children and staff together, have been building their confidence in baking, cooking and tasting new things. When the children were cooking pasta, they talked about portioning it out between them and how they would do this, with each of them having a quarter. They talked about how much a quarter would be, in comparison to a half or a third. The children also talked about how the water was bubbling in the pot. They decided that it was bubbling too hard and that a lower temperature was needed. Safety was of high priority with the children identifying that the pot handle should be positioned so that it wasn't hanging over the edge of the hob.

Within our Creative Zone the children have been engaging in junk modelling, creating and decorating their own houses. Some of the children decided they needed to put 'tiles' on their houses and create windows, and they talked about what they could use to do this. They also talked about how many rooms they would have and what their own house looks like. This led to discussion about different types of houses and some research was done to find out about these on the iPad.

Within our Discovery Zone the children were talking about making racetracks. They decided to research racetracks around the world to help them create their own, and decided it needed to have a ramp added to it. When it was finished, they timed each other racing round the track, and talked about who was fastest and how they could adjust their track to go even faster. Some of the children were talking about the homemade chips that had been cooked in the social zone and decided to build their own chip shop to sell the chips along with some 'mayflower curry sauce'. Alongside the chip shop the children built a roll shop to sell 'rolls and sausage with potato scones and fried eggs'. They made good use of the loose parts for this and showed a good understanding of how to pay for things using money or a card, as well as talking about pounds and pennies. The roll shop then became a McDonalds, and the children created their own McDonalds hats which they designed with cut out chips on them, showing their creativity. Lots of learning with a strong food theme. 😊

Within our Outdoor Zone the children have been using lots of mathematical language while building sandcastles, comparing size, height and shape. Some of the children were interested to find out everyone's favourite colour and they made tally marks in the sand and counted how many. They then made a bar graph together on paper to show how many children liked each colour. The children have been talking about the weather and made their own kites using paper and string to 'fly' in the wind. The children noticed that the kites would get higher as they ran and the wind caught the kites, and they spent some time experimenting with speed to see how high they could get the kites to go. Mark making with the chalk has led to lots of questions and opportunities for learning. One child wrote up to 220 on the ground which led children to ask about the different numerals. A drawing of a clock led to discussion about the big hand and the little hand, how we measure time, and why the clocks change. The children were interested to find out it started during World War 1 to save energy. Sunflowers have been planted, and the children have been caring for them, as they see how tall they will grow. They plan to chart this on a graph.

Spateston Farmer's Market

We are planning to have a farmer's market on Friday 12 June 2026. The children are working behind the scenes right now and learning about production and harvesting, and have already started planting and growing produce. There will be a variety of items available to buy, and all will have been made or grown by the children and staff in the nursery. This will be a fun day that will allow the children to become amazing entrepreneurs!

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

