



Spateston Early Learning and Childcare Centre

Autumn Newsletter 2026



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

Pop in and See: Family Engagement, Outdoor and Risky Play

22 October 2026: 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Parents Evenings

24 November 2026 - Family Group 1; 25 November 2026 - Family Group 2; 26 November 2026 - Family Group 3

Your child's keyworker will be in touch to arrange an appointment time

Christmas Market

3 December 2026: 6pm-7.30pm

Christmas Party

16 and 17 December 2026: there will be more details to follow

Parking



This is a gentle reminder to keep everyone safe! If the drop off point is full, we would encourage families to use the community car park beside the Spateston Inn. Our car park is for staff use only; an arrangement can be made to use the disabled space if you speak with someone in the office. Please avoid double parking on Hallhill Road, the community wardens patrol regularly.

Our Millport Sponsored Fundraising Event

The staff took part in a Sponsored Walk around Millport on Saturday 19 September 2026. They walked 10 miles in some very wet and windy conditions to raise essential funds for the nursery. We want to ensure that the children access the best resources and equipment indoors and out. As we have high numbers of children using these each day replacing, refreshing and updating is something we pride ourselves in order to maintain our high-quality provision. We are now gathering your donations and appreciate all the support you have given us so far. Thank you!

Parent Pay

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

The Spateston Team

There have been some changes within our staff team that we want to make you aware of. Due to changes in the allocation of the Early Years Graduate's across the council, we no longer have Zoe working with us. She brought so much to our setting and we miss her hugely. Lauren Coyle has welcomed the safe arrival of baby Brodie; we are currently recruiting for her maternity leave post and another ELCO post due to our numbers within the service rising. Daniel is currently absent, and we wish him a speedy recovery. Cat has joined our team of support workers over the lunch period which we are delighted about.

School Enrolment

Children who will be 5 years old between 1 March 2027 and 29 February 2028 should register at their catchment school. Registration is open from 2 – 11 November 2026. If you are unable to do this online you should contact your school to make an appointment during these dates.

Nursery Enrolment

If you have younger children or know of any younger children who will be turning 3 years between 1 March 2027 and 29 February 2028 and will be entitled to a nursery place, we ask that you make application before the beginning of January 2027. The application can be completed online through the council website or on our website:

www.spatestonelcc.co.uk

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

Within our Social Zone the children have been baking scones. The children who have returned this year have been doing this independently and supporting the new children to have a go. There have been lots of children getting the opportunity to try. Baking bread has also been popular, and the children have been measuring and weighing the ingredients, counting the spoonfuls whilst using the numerical language of full and empty. They have discussed size and shape and the transformation of the mixture from wet to dry. To accompany their scones and bread the children have been making their own Strawberry Jam. They have been learning how to use the knives safely as they cut the fruit into halves and quarters. Understanding the safety around the hob has been important with safety in the kitchen being widely spoken about.

Within the Outdoor Zone, the children have been loving making potions, the potions were magical ones and being created to turn someone into a dinosaur! They have been making pancakes in the mud kitchen and using lots of mathematical language, full and empty when they were filling and pouring. This is being extended to connect with the story of 'Gruffalo Granny' and the deep, dark wood. The obstacle course has been extended, and the children have added more balancing opportunities, they have filled the gaps with wood as they saw that some of the smaller children were finding it harder to cross. This has shown great problem-solving skills! Living things in the garden has also been of interest, the children have been talking about worms and how they should look after living things within the garden.

Within our Discovery Zone the children have been using the wooden blocks to make a variety of structures. They have been using their counting skills and adding guttering to create slopes, lots of problem solving has been taking place. Children have been incorporating role play into their structures and using the blocks to create a caravan, pretending to look out the windows and spotting animals, whilst giving instructions to the driver. Great teamwork has been shown! Their interest in the animal spotting developed into making a safari.

In the Creative Zone the children have been exploring the paint and following the recipe to get 3 scoops of powder and 10 pumps of water and then mixing it together to form the paint. They have then been investigating the colours they can make by mixing two together, "red and blue make purple", they said, this is giving them a broader understanding of the primary and secondary colours. They have also talked about having black and white to give them more opportunity to add "shade" to the colours they have made. The children have also been experimenting with the clay; they are making themselves more familiar with the possibilities of the clay by rolling and manipulating it and using the water pump as they do this. The children have been adding loose parts to it as they create models. Model making with the junk is also being well used and this has linked to the story of 'The Gruffalo' with some children creating the Gruffalo using the different sized boxes.

In the Imagination Zone the children have been very interested in the story of 'Gruffalo Granny'. They have been talking about authors and illustrators and noticed that the illustrator of 'Gruffalo Granny' is the author of 'Pip and Posy'. There has been research into Julia Donaldson and the children decided to write to her after reading her stories. Discussion about how we communicate through, emails and letters, airmail and text messaging took place. At the writing area the children have been writing and drawing pictures with the adult scribing. Some children have created pictures to send home to their mum and dad. They have looked on google maps to find their houses and their addresses. Finding out about postcodes and how they work has added to their interest. They have written envelopes, bought stamps and walked to the post box to send their letters.

