



OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

Updates and Information

February/March 2025

We are now 2 weeks into the start of our OPAL lunchtimes and we can truly say that OPAL has revolutionised the children's and adults' lunchtime experience – for the better.

Here are a few pictures of the children having fun in the first 2 weeks.

Thank you to the parents/carers who gave their time to help over half-term. We really appreciate it.



Our playground is set out into zones or ranges and in each zone/range there is a different activity/ play experience available.

We have water play, sand. construction, a thing with wheels area, den/shelter building/ cars, small world play, and lots more. The children are free to choose where they play and with what. We have held assemblies where we want the children to think about how they play. We ask them to think about 3 things:

- 1- Am I safe**
- 2- Is everyone else safe**
- 3- Is the equipment safe- and will I break it**

Children are taught to place any item they think is unsafe or broken into our toy hospital:



WHAT IS NEXT and HELP NEEDED

We are now busy planning our next stage of OPAL which will involve the use of more of our grounds. We are looking at balancing more adventurous play with more calming areas.

We want to build a big sandpit so lots of children can experience it. If you think you can help in any way e.g. supply of wood, your time to help make it please do get in touch with the office.

We would love donations of any planks of wood, pallets, plastic guttering, plastic barriers. In fact, anything you have that you think the children would like to play with we would like so please do continue to drop off donations. You can do this at any time either into the wooden box outside the office or for bigger items just let us know and we can arrange for you to drive around the back of the school.

We are also in the process of planning outside storage for all children to have wet weather gear i.e. storage of wellies, waterproof trousers and other clothing.

If you or anyone you know have the skills and/or time we would be so grateful of any help you can provide to truly transform our grounds for our children's benefit.

We will always be wanting a supply of any loose parts you may have hanging around

Here are some examples of what **loose parts** are:

- Suitcases of any size and type that are still useable i.e. zip works, wheels work etc
- Anything on wheels/castors including pushchairs
- Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- Road signs and cones
- Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, work tables, wooden spoons, chopping boards
- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Buckets
- Nets and thick ropes
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/mobile phones/desk phones/webcams/cameras that are no longer working
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric) including blankets
- Foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats
- Wooden pallets
- Metal frames
- Cable drums
- Guttering
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)
- Small world toys like dinosaur, action figures, dolls etc
- Construction toys like Lego, K'nex, Stickle bricks, Duplo etc

Together we will make our playtimes the best experience for our children that we can.

Thank you as always for your continued support.