



OPaL Newsletter

Term 4 – April 2025 v2



Play is the highest form of research and child development

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPaL) is children learning through play.

Children learn to make their own decisions, risk assess their own activities, are creative and use their imaginations to create games and play. They also learn how to share, reason and exchange. Support friendships with others. Learn to take turns and practice fine motor skills, while creating independence and resilience, in the fresh air, while playing and having fun.

To encourage children when the mud garden and sand pit areas are created, only children who have wellies and waterproof clothing will be able to play in these areas. This is where we ask that you provide these items to keep in school.

Please could we ask that you provide your child with a pair of named wellington boots to keep in school. Also a waterproof (not showerproof) coat and if possible trousers & socks.

Could you help us with donations of any good quality materials to help the children use their imaginations. Can you help, or do you know someone who can help us by providing:

Crates, tubes, funnels, sturdy planks of wood, tarpaline, nets, corrugated tubing, guttering, cable drums, ropes, pegs/clips. Please drop them at reception. Thank you in advance for your support. The children really want to get building and creating.

OPaL Extended Play

Today, the whole school, including staff had an extended OPaL playtime where the children and adult played games and took part in activities together. Dodge ball with Mr Clark & Mr Everett against a team of children. Mr Taylor was on the apparatus and Miss Smith was on the scooter!

Here are some of the activities:



NOW



Please bring in:

- *Named waterproof clothing
- *Spare socks
- *Construction Materials

NEXT



From Term 5, please bring in:

- *Named Waterproof clothing
- *Spare socks
- *Named Wellie Boots
- *Construction Materials



As the sun has begun to shine, many of our planned activities are out and being used by the children.

Community Support Received:

- Manpower provided by Pete & Fraser from the Parish Council
- PFA
- Bird feeders provided by Tesco Community
- L&T Gardens & Groundworks

To ensure that children can play outside **everyday** they need to be warm, dry and comfortable, with the right clothing for summer and winter.

Activities currently available:

Lower Playground

- Quiet reading shed & Quiet Sensory shed
- Lower quieter area
- Small world & Duplo / lego blocks
- Colouring and creative table
- Board games area

The MUGA remains open with Netball & Dodgeball, Football & Basketball

Upper Playground

- Dressing up
- Scooters & Tyre Play
- 'The train' – created by year 6 for the joy of all year groups
- Skipping
- Outdoor speaker with age appropriate music for all children
- Apparatus has reopened
- Spiritual garden has reopened

Lunchtime Process

12:00 - 13:00 = Lunchtime for all pupils and adults

12:00 - Select year groups eat in the hall, others are called in. Most days all lunches are served by 12:35

Between these times, children are able to play using the skills and ethos of OPaL play.

12:55 - the old school hand bell sounds to indicate tidy up time. At this point, play time ends and children support each other in tidying equipment away supported by Play Rangers

12:59 - the whistle is blown to indicate end of tidy up time and children should be lined in classes in the given agreed order (normally register order). This allows the children time to regulate and calm before entering the classroom.

13:00 - Class teachers meet the children in their lines. A member of the management team greet the children, and everyone walks to the classroom lead by the class teacher ready for afternoon lessons

Activities for the future:

- Reintroduce the music corner with pots and pans
- Water play area – in progress
- Sand pit area – in progress
- Den building
- Mud garden
- Create a 'stage' for performing arts
- To create/purchase wellie boot storage areas for each classroom

You may see on the playground outside of 4P classroom a whiteboard. This is designed to support the children by advising of key activities each day. eg Clubs, School Council, Worship Leader or Digital Ambassador meetings. Also notifying when the MUGA is open.

eg Clubs, School Council, Worship Leader or Digital Ambassador meetings. Also notifying when the MUGA is open/closed. We hope the children find this useful.

