



Our journey so far

OPAL UPDATES



Mrs Dickson

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Invitation

You are invited to come and join an afternoon of OPAL on **Friday 6 June at 1.15 pm!**

Come and join in with the play and have fun with the children. You will have an opportunity to talk to teachers and our OPAL mentor - **if you're planning to attend, please [Complete the online form here.](#)**

We know that our Year 4 children are out at Attenborough Nature Reserve that day - but there will be more opportunities to see OPAL in action next school year.



We have recently opened our water area, it has been a huge success. Some children have been disappointed as they can't use the area without wellies. Please ensure your child has wellies at school.

If you have any old wellies, please add them to our welly library as children are finding it useful to swap their wellies and/or borrow some.



OPAL is not just about having fun, it is also about children noticing and managing risks for themselves. This provides life skills that prepare them for their future. The teachers had a staff meeting to look at the environment and ways to mitigate risks.

The children still take part in a weekly whole school OPAL assembly. The children discuss what is working and what needs adapting. It is very much a team effort from all year groups. We talk about the risks during our play and how we can keep each other safe. We collectively write our RBA's - Risk Benefit Assessments. The play team are always adapting the environments, and we monitor our accident books to ensure the children are managing the risks well.

Thank you for the craft shack donations

The craft shack is an amazing place that is well loved by so many children. We have been blown away by your donations - craft items and small cardboard boxes and tubes welcome.

As part of OPAL, Mr Connolly offers sports to all year groups. As part of this, he is now taking year 5 and 6 to the field to play football one day a week. So far it has been a huge success.



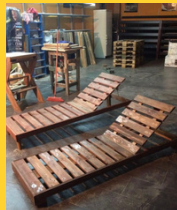
We need you!

TO HELP MOVE THE PROJECT ON

The Big Build Event, Monday 21 July

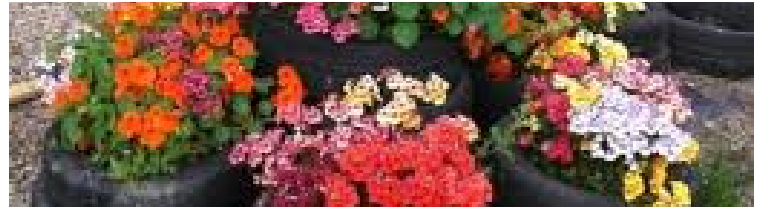
Volunteers needed!

As part of OPAL, many school have hosted a 'big build' day where people with building skills come into school and build furniture with pallettes. Your children will be invited out of class to help and there will also be treats supplied! In the OPAL community, these days have always been a huge success. We have the best community here at the Good Shepherd so I know 'a big build day' will be a huge success!



If you can you help us make our school grounds even better on Monday 21 July, please complete the form [here](#) to register your support...please ask all friend and family members who you thin might be able to help – thank you!

Growing flowers around school



We are looking to make our school grounds greener by growing herbs and flowers. I am looking for volunteers who can contribute to this part of the project such as what to grow and how to maintain it.

If you have green fingers and would like to help our school look beautiful, please contact Mrs Dickson in the Nursery. We really appreciate your help.

A magical play space

We are on the look out for large logs, old boats and any other large pieces of equipment that could be used for play equipment. Please speak to Mrs Dickson in the Nursery if you have any contacts who can help.



Other things we need...

The children have really enjoyed using all your kind donations. Here is a list of a few other we are in need of:

- Push chairs – please bring to Nursery
- Pallettes (no broken ones please) in preparation for the big build, please leave in the school car park
- Old wellies that no longer fit – please leave on the blue welly rack in the main school playground (just past the drive)
- Blankets – please bring to the Nursery playground
- Baby dolls and baby toys – please bring to the Nursery playground.

THANK YOU!