

OPAL Update

One year on...

























We are thrilled to share that our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) project, now a year in, is going from strength to strength! Since its introduction, we have seen a wonderful transformation in how our children approach play and each other.

One of the most noticeable changes has been in the children's confidence and creativity. They are becoming less self-conscious and far more adventurous during their playtimes. It's been a joy to watch them take healthy risks, try out new ideas, and engage in imaginative play that goes beyond traditional playground games.

We've also seen a huge improvement in how children work together. They are more solution-focused, often solving problems independently or collaboratively without the need for adult intervention. Whether they're building, negotiating, or resolving small conflicts, the children are developing respectful communication skills and learning to support one another.

Our weekly OPAL assembly has become a real highlight of the week. This is a time where we come together to celebrate positive play, hand out awards, and introduce any new items or areas that have been added to the school grounds. We also use this time to talk about risk and safety, encouraging the children to think critically and make sensible decisions during their play.

The project has helped us see play not just as a break from learning but as an essential part of it. Through OPAL, we are building resilience, teamwork, and creativity - skills that support learning across the curriculum and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support with the OPAL project. We are proud of how far we've come and excited for what's still to come.



Interesting article about the impact nature has on childrens development and well being

https://news.sky.com/stor y/simple-joy-of-jumpingin-puddles-or-climbingtrees-is-out-of-reach-formillions-of-children-13448084



Our next steps

CALLING ALL GARDENERS?

The OPAL team have teamed up with the forest school team.

If you would like to look after and nurture the natural parts of our school grounds such as weeding, planting and pruning.

We are looking for helpers on a Friday afternoon.

Every little helps!

Please speak to Mrs Whittle or Mrs Dickson if you can offer some help.





🐛 Get ready to play OPAL BINGO 🐛				
Suitcases	Toy cars	Action figures	Buckets and spades	Plastic trucks
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Pushchairs	Scooters	Plants	Digging tools	Dressing up 8 + years

Cotton speels	Large flat stones 5-10 cm in length	Role play	Pushchairs	Herbs for the mud café
	Trowels	Tree stumps	Wooden planks	Tarpaulin
		MAN		

Donations

We are having another big push on donations for the children to play with during OPAL. Each class will have a bingo card (as above). These are the items we are really looking for!

If you are having a clear out over the half term holidays, please consider donating any of the items above.

Please drop them off to the Nursery

Thanks so much for your continued support.

Dress for all weathers

Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for being outside whatever the weather. This includes wellies, a suitable coat and waterproof trousers/jacket if your child enjoys the messier areas.