



Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Update March 2026



We have now completed our first half term of OPAL play. It has been a great success - more children are loving being outside, no matter what the weather, as there is now so much more to do. Whether it is playing with water play, digging in the dig pit, enjoying imaginative play in the small world area or exploring the wheeled area, OPAL is offering a creative and exciting alternative to the regular activities on the yard.

In addition to the areas already being used, over the next half term we will be adding a sand pit area and begin to incorporate large loose parts into our play. Wellies are being well managed by the upper school children, and we are building some new wellie storage for KS2 over Easter break.

Through this kind of play not only are children more active at lunchtime they are also having the opportunity to further develop life skills such as cooperation, team work and problem solving. They are becoming motivated and enthusiastic builders, engineers, explorers and designers. Thank you for your support with:

- Sending your child into school with appropriate warm/waterproof clothing and wellies
- Donating to school small world creatures, cars, pots and pans etc. for the creative play
- Supporting the OPAL ethos by asking your child about their play and accepting that they may get dirty... Some parents have been sending in spare clothes with their child for lunchtimes - please feel free to do this.

Special thanks go to all our parents who have donated pallets. The plan is for these to create our wellie storage for KS2 so once we have done this, I will update you on school story!

You can still help us more by donating any unwanted materials you have at home such as:-

- Plastic or metal buckets
- Kitchen utensils, pots, pans, baking trays, sieves, colanders etc for the mud kitchen
- Watering cans, wheel barrows, guttering
- Large pieces of fabric
- Toy trucks, diggers, cars
- Small world creatures e.g. dinosaurs, farm animals etc.

I am sure some of you will be getting a little envious of all the fun the children are having. You'll therefore be very pleased to have advanced warning of an open play afternoon we have planned for the summer term (a date is TBC) while will take place in an afternoon so that you can come and join us for an afternoon of play.

Thank you for your continued support.

To check out the OPAL philosophy go to www.outdoorplanandlearning.org.uk

