



OPAL Launch



7/9/22

Dear Parents,

We are launching an exciting new project to make our lunchtime play even better, in conjunction with OPAL. (<http://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>). OPAL has won the best active schools' programme in Europe award and been cited in two Parliamentary Reports as outstanding practice. OPAL is working closely with Sport England to promote more active childhoods.

We strongly believe that: **"Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community"** (Play Council 2001).

The project has started today and our hopes are that this project will change the way we think and how we play together. To facilitate this project, we will need to buy some new resources, move some things around on the playground and we will also require some loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime (see below for some examples):

Suitcases of any size and type

Hats, bags etc that can be used for role play

Anything on wheels/castors

Toy trucks/diggers

Prams/pushchairs

Plastic milk crates

Briefcases, especially hard cased ones

Road signs and cones

kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, worktables, wooden spoons, chopping boards

Tools like spades, trowels and brooms

tubing of various sizes and various materials

Buckets

Nets and ropes

Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric)

Foam sheets / body boards

Wooden pallets

Cable drums

Guttering



OPAL Launch



Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)

Tarpaulin sheets/old tents

Pegs (to help to set up dens)

Small world figures eg animals, dinosaurs, action figures, cars etc

We will be holding a collection week during the week beginning Monday 12th September. The sooner we do this, the sooner the children will be able to play with the items! Please do not bring your donations in before this date as we will have nowhere to store them. If objects are really large, such as wooden pallets, we will ensure that there is someone available to help you carry them into school.

There will be more information to follow at a parent's session later in the year when you will be invited to come and play with your children. We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

Yours sincerely,

The Play Team (Miss Pape, Mrs Bell, Mrs Bethwaite, Miss Bell)