



OPAL NEWSLETTER



Autumn Term 2 – 22nd Nov



OPAL stands for **OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING** and is a programme endorsed by Sport England



Aim
"To ensure that every child has an amazing playtime, every day with no exceptions." OPAL

Dear Parents,

A quick OPAL update

The OPAL Play Team – We have 2 essential groups responsible for OPAL Play, here at Monkton.

1. The OPAL Working Group – this is a collaboration of Senior Leaders, Teachers, Tas, parents and governors who meet 6 times during the year with the aim of making playtimes better for everyone.
2. Play Leaders – these are our amazing Tas who supervise play. They support children with play but will never interrupt them whilst they are in the role of pirate on a ship or baker in the mud kitchen!

Thank you to everyone for all of your help so far. We can't do it without you!

Wet Playtimes

From the start of Term 2, we will be re-starting our wet playtimes. After discussions with staff, children and parents, we have made the decision that children will only go outside when there is light or moderate rain and when the wind isn't too blowy. Mr Marston will be the weatherperson making the decision whether it is too rainy or not. Our aim is to get children out in all weathers but we do understand how this can cause issues at home, especially if you have a child who loves getting muddy and wet!

Being outside in the rain is fun for many children and so we need to make sure your child is kitted out properly with appropriate clothing. We've seen so many happy children when they are allowed to splash in puddles, play in the sappy mud kitchen and just dance around with a smile on their dripping faces. Children who do not have the appropriate clothing for the weather conditions will be kept indoors.

All children MUST have wet weather clothing in school.

This should consist of:

- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Welly boots
- Change of socks



Donations

If you are able to donate any of the following, we would be most grateful

- Drainpipes and other pipes
- Scaffolding boards/planks of wood (good for dens but also obstacle courses)
- Tyres
- Sturdy crates for stacking (great for imaginary play and obstacle courses)

Thank you in advance