



OPAL NEWSLETTER



Summer Term

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,

Please find below our latest OPAL Play updates.

What has happened



OPAL Vibe! Last Friday, the playground and field were awash with happiness. Children were den building, dancing, bug hotel building, circus school playing, dressing up, playing tennis, creating water canals with large pipes, cycling, sand pit playing and so much more! The music was also being played and the sun was out – it was like Glastonbury!

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

We meet 6 x per year to discuss all things OPAL. On the team, we have Mr Marston (Curriculum Leader), Mrs Osgood (Play Leader), Mr Philpott (OPAL Governor), Mrs Ling (Parent Champion) and Mrs Burchett (Parent Champion).

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

Fundraising We are working towards purchasing some hanging bars for the children to use in order to play and improve their upper body strength. Stay tuned in Term 6 to hear about our next fundraising event with all proceeds going towards the bars.



Plans for the future...

Dinosaur corner We will be developing a nook in our playground to create a 'dinosaur corner' where children can recreate Jurassic Park and hatch dino eggs!

Pond Area Over the next few months, and thanks to a grant secured by Mr Sidders, we will be turning our pond area into a Nature Zone complete with outdoor classroom, identification boards, pond-dipping equipment and much much more, including new plants and bushes to attract the wildlife. This area will be open and supervised during specific days and used as part of curriculum time.

OPAL Stay'n'Play We last held a Stay'n'Play back in the Autumn and lots has happened since so we want to share our OPAL Play with parents and give you the opportunity to see what it is all about.

Donations?

Toy diggers and trucks We'd love some toy diggers and trucks so children can role-play in our 'Monkton quarry' (bath full of stones). Please email cmarston@mandm.school or aosgood@mandm.school for more info. If you have any that you could kindly donate, please pop them into the donations box outside the main office – thank you.



If you could donate any of the following, then please let us know. We always need a constant drip of equipment to keep playtimes as fun and as exciting and fresh as possible.

- Pipes for water play/dens
- Planks of wood/scaffold boards
- Crates/pallets
- Tyres
- White stones

How can you help?

Can you volunteer your time to be an OPAL Parent? We are looking for willing volunteers to come in and help supervise our lunchtimes from 12:30pm until 1pm. If you think you can help and can put up with mud, screams and dressing-up then please come and see me or email me (cmarston@mandm.school).

Wet weather clothes – it still rains in the Summer!

To put it simply, waterproof clothing is integral and therefore now part of our uniform policy.

Children must have their own waterproofs (do not have to be red). In order to experience wet play, children must have waterproofs on in order to avoid getting their uniform wet, muddy and uncomfortable.

This should consist of:

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

The waterproofs opposite can be purchased from Asda for approx. £10 depending on size

The waterproofs DO NOT need to be red.

Please speak to a member of staff if you need help with this.



Quotes from the children about OPAL

Callie – I made a pretend horse stable and when I'm not doing that I chill on the hammock.

Isabelle – I love building the bug hotel because I really like nature.

Hetty – I help the Year R children with dressing up.

Otto – I'd love a trampoline but OPAL has definitely given us new opportunities.

Max – I still play football but I also now play tennis.

