



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear parents and carers,

We are about to launch an exciting new project to make our play times 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 will start this month (September) and our hopes are that this project will change the way we think and how we play together. To facilitate this project, we require some dressing up items and 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.

We are looking for:

- Hats
- Sunglasses
- Bags
- Scarves
- Gloves
- Kitchen items: pans, baking trays, wooden spoons, chopping boards, sieves, plastic cups and plates
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Buckets
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric)
- Guttering
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool)

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If you have any of the items above and would like them to donate them to us, it would be greatly appreciated. We will be holding a collection week during the week beginning Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

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.

Many thanks,  
Mrs Evans