



# OPAL PLAY Newsletter 17.10.24



Welcome to our first OPAL newsletter of the year and welcome to our new parents who are still learning about the benefits of Opal play. Our newsletters will inform you of any new OPAL play developments, the new activities we have introduced and the ways you could help us improve our play provision.

## BENEFITS OF OPAL PLAY:

Opal allows the children to have fun, be creative and find what makes them motivated in their play. There is no time to be bored and as a result of the freedom to play where they want with whoever they want, playtime behavioural incidents have dramatically reduced. Not only are the play opportunities promoting health and well-being, but also children are developing life skills such as cooperation, team work and problem solving.

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 9am – 10.30am

We would like to invite you to our next family Opal event. Bobby Beaumont, our Opal Play Mentor, will be in school to deliver a session in the hall to explain the philosophy behind Opal and Miss Priddle, Mrs Thomas and Mrs McNicholas will be presenting the story of OBS' Opal journey. After our talks, you will be invited to join the children in a sample play session. Please note this will not be a 'typical' Opal playtime and will seem busier than usual. Our lunchtimes are staggered and ordinarily a lot of children would be in the hall eating, meaning that fewer children would be playing outside. However, you should get a flavour of what Opal play feels like and hopefully you will see how playtimes are now much more fun!

## EVERY DAY IS OPAL PLAY!

In the past, when it rained the children would have to endure their 'playtime' inside the classroom. The activities available would be limited and the children confined to their seats. Being cooped up in a small space all day, without the opportunity to let off steam, is not good for children mentally or physically and it is always tricky to manage behaviour. The benefit of Opal being 'all-weather' play means that this is no longer an issue. Unless the weather is extreme and/or dangerous, our children will play outside and are able to experience all the benefits of Opal play all the time. To ensure your child is kept dry and enjoy playing without feeling uncomfortable, they need to bring a **warm waterproof coat** with a hood EVERY DAY (particularly as we head into winter). We suggest they bring **wellies** that stay at school in our welly sheds, so that they can experience play in muddy areas. We are happy if you would like to provide waterproof trousers and a spare set of clothes to change into just in case!

DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE FOR REGULAR UPDATES INCLUDING GOLDEN WELLY AND BROOM AWARD WINNERS, A COPY OF OUR WEEKLY ASSEMBLY AND OUR RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS.

<https://www.oldbasfordschool.co.uk/opal-play/>

