



# OPAL PLAY Newsletter 30.9.25



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.

## A BIG THANK YOU !

We were overwhelmed by your support last Wednesday (24.9.25) when we held our first Opal family play event of the year. Thank you so much if you were able to attend, but don't worry if you couldn't as we will be holding further play days in the coming year. Hopefully, you were able to get a good flavour of what Opal feels like, you were able to enjoy playing with your child and saw all the different types of play available to suit lots of different play tastes.














































## 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



**DONATIONS REMINDER:** We are always on the look out for new equipment and resources. You will be surprised what can be turned into a fun and exciting game with a little bit of imagination! If you have anything that you think might be suitable for us to play with, we would gratefully accept your kind donations. We have a donation station at the front of school. Take a look at the list below at the kinds of things we can use.

<p> <b>Small World</b> </p> <p>Dinosaurs  Cars </p> <p>Trucks  Dolls  Animals </p> <p>Lego  Barbies  Action Figures </p> <p>Soft toys </p>	<p><b>Role Play</b></p> <p>Fancy dress Adult clothing and shoes</p> <p>Hats  Handbags  Suitcases </p> <p>Dressing gowns / kimonos </p> <p>Fabrics (duvets, sheets, curtains)</p> <p>Old appliances (hair dryers etc) </p> <p>New-born baby clothes</p> <p>Baby dolls of all ethnicities</p> <p>Cushions  Carpet tiles  Outdoor cushions &amp; rugs </p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p> </p> <p>Plastic crates  Plastic bread trays </p> <p>Plastic pipes and guttering</p> <p>Drain pipes  Tarps  Hard hats </p> <p>Cardboard boxes </p> <p>Fabrics (duvets, sheets, curtains)</p>
<p><b>Creative Arts</b></p> <p> Paint brushes  Paint rollers</p> <p>Bubble machine  Chunky chalks </p> <p>Trays  Sponges (all sizes) </p> <p>Old wallpaper rolls / off cuts </p>	<p><b>Messy Kitchen</b> </p> <p> Pots and pans  Kitchen utensils</p> <p>Old appliances (microwaves, kettles etc)</p> <p>Water play – jugs, watering cans </p> <p>Garden broom</p>	<p><b>Low Level Wheels</b>  </p> <p>Prams  Suitcases </p> <p>Bread trays with wheels</p> <p>Pushchairs (for humans and dolls) </p> <p></p>

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/>