



OPAL PLAY Newsletter 26.11.25



Welcome to the second addition of our OPAL newsletter this year. 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.

New Play Opportunities

It has been a busy term adding to our OPAL play provision. We now have pogo sticks and trampolines that the children really enjoy using. We have also added an additional tyre swing and have plans to add more. We met with Bobby recently who came and observed lunchtime and met with the team. He was impressed with the play that he saw and has given us tips to help us maintain platinum and move beyond that. We are looking at ways to develop our grounds further and really engage with the environment. Over the October half term, the perimeter fencing was completed to ensure the safety of the school site which is brilliant, however, it has been slightly unfortunate that during this process we lost most of the hedging and trees that ran around the perimeter of our site. We have put in some bids for funding to help us replace these, so fingers crossed we can be successful in our bids to get hedges, bushes, fruit trees and fruit bushes to replace what has now gone. We may possibly look for some planting volunteers if we are successful—so have your wellies and spades at the ready! We have also compiled a school OPAL Play wish list on Amazon. This is to give parents ideas of ways to support us and items we are looking for. We understand that it would be a generous donation to school if parents purchased items from the list and we would be very grateful for that, however, it might be that you have some of the items at home that you are able to donate instead or know of any businesses that might like to help us out. The link to our wish list is here: <https://amzn.eu/1kPQZw4>



















































EVERY DAY IS OPAL PLAY!



Just a reminder now that the weather is getting colder, that children need to be prepared for outdoor play. 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**. 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, but we do have some in school the children can borrow! Gloves, scarves and hats are also great at this time of year, but please make sure they are clearly named as we currently have an ongoing problem with trying to return items to their owners, that have been left outside at lunchtime! Thank you.



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 in addition to our wish list.

<p> Small World </p> <p>Dinosaurs  Cars </p> <p>Trucks  Dolls  Animals </p> <p>Lego  Barbies  Action Figures </p> <p>Soft toys </p>	<p>Role Play</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 & rugs </p>	<p>Construction</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>Creative Arts</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>Messy Kitchen </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>Low Level Wheels</p> <p> Prams  Suitcases</p> <p>Bread trays with wheels </p> <p>Pushchairs (for humans and dolls) </p> <p></p>

OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE IS CURRENTLY BEING UPDATED WITH INFORMATION ABOUT OPAL PLAY AND THE AREAS AVAILABLE TO THE CHILDREN. PLEASE TAKE A LOOK SOON TO FIND OUT MORE!

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