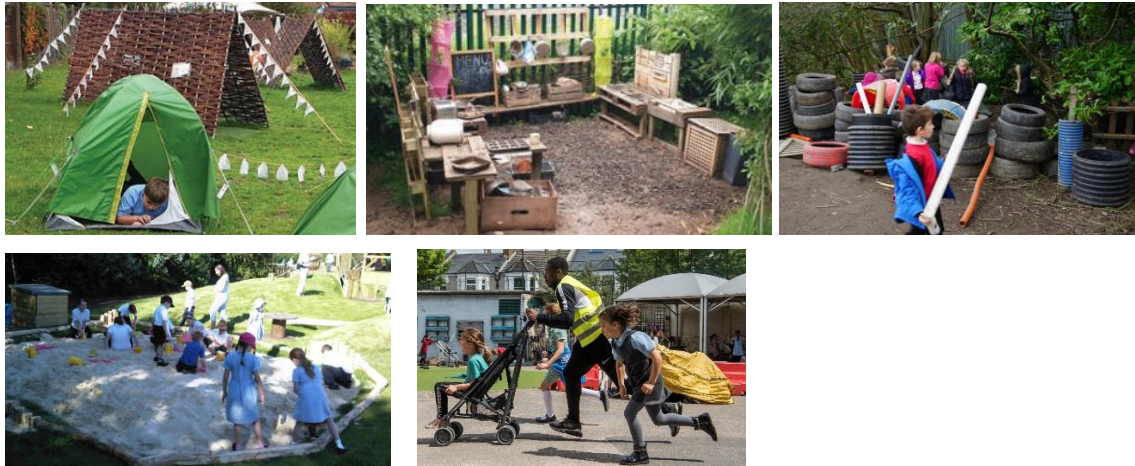




16 June 2023

Dear Families

OPAL Resources



We are continuing with the OPAL programme to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, co-operation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through play. This programme began in September 2022 and will be built upon over the next few years.

OPAL is based on the idea that as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play, and as 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

There are many proven benefits for schools which carry out the OPAL Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, less accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

As the school improves play opportunities for your children, we would like to begin by asking you for resources, known as 'spare parts'. These resources include:

- Tyres – free from local garages
- Pots/Pans/Kitchen utensils for a mud kitchen and a future sand area
- Pushchairs
- Suitcases
- Dressing up clothes and accessories – any theme, size and gender will be greatly received

- Dolls
- Bikes/scooters/skateboards
- Helmets
- Guttering and pipes
- Climbing rope or thin rope that can easily cut
- Tarps
- Board games
- Small garden trowels and plant pots

Your children may get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater freedoms to play where, with whom and how they like. The experiences the school is fostering are essential for children's physical and mental wellbeing and are in line with all current good practice advice on health safety, wellbeing and development.

If you would like to learn more about the OPAL Primary Programme please have a look at the OPAL website <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>. We have also added the parent booklet onto our school website.

Yours sincerely

E Salter

Miss Salter
Teacher/ OPAL Play