



13 July 2022

Dear Families

## Opal Playground



We are about to start a programme to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, co-operation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play. This programme will begin in September 2022 and will be built upon over 2-3 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 school 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
- Pots/Pans/Kitchen utensils for a mud kitchen
- Pushchairs
- Suitcases
- Dressing up clothes
- Dolls
- Large bean bags to sit on

- Bikes/scooters/skateboards
- Helmets
- Corrugated pipes
- Tarps

We are currently looking at making changes about how the children use the school grounds. They may use more of the grounds, for more of the year. 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 well-being and health and are in line with all current good practice advice on health safety, well-being 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 a parent booklet onto the school website with this letter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Binney