

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Lammin (BSc Hons QTS)

10th October 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) – Play Day/Non-Uniform Day

Following September's correspondence about breaktime provision, we are delighted to announce that we will be holding a special "Play Day" on **Friday 18th October**, as part of our soft launch of the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) initiative. This exciting day will allow children to experience the benefits of creative and active outdoor play, and begin to explore additional resources in line with our school's commitment to enhancing breaktimes.

On this day, children are invited to wear active clothing instead of their usual school uniform, as they will be participating in a variety of outdoor activities. If they wish to access the field, they may bring wellies in a named bag (in addition to other active footwear) to ensure they are suitably dressed for all weather conditions.

We are also asking for a voluntary contribution of £1 per child, which will go towards our OPAL fund to help increase our playtime resources. If you wish to donate more, please feel free to send any additional contributions in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your child's name and 'OPAL Fund'. Your generosity will directly support the enhancement of our play spaces and resources for the children.

The day will begin with special assemblies for the whole school, where we will discuss OPAL in more detail and lay out expectations for the resources and the importance of play in education. To add to the excitement, just for Friday 18th October, we will be extending lunchtime play to give children extra time to explore the new resources alongside their class teacher and TA.

In the meantime, we kindly ask parents to hold on to any items they feel may be useful for breaktimes, as we will soon be sending out a list of specific items we would appreciate. However, if any families have larger plastic storage boxes that are intact and complete with lids, we would gladly accept those from Wednesday, 7th October, to help with the organisation of new play equipment.

We are looking forward to an active and enjoyable day, and we appreciate your continued support in making breaktimes more enriching for all our students.

Yours sincerely

Matt Johns
Curriculum lead for play

Ben Butterfield
Assistant Deputy Head

Jo Reynolds
Assistant Deputy Head

Caroline Tiller
Lead MDSA

Ivy Lane OPAL Steering Group