



Opal Newsletter

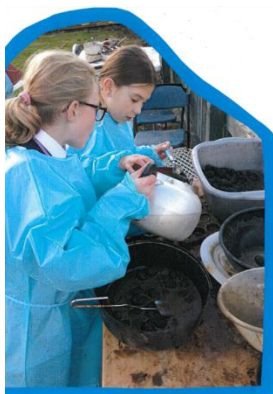
Thursday 29th February 2024



Opal Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite having a very wet and windy start to the New Year, we have continued with our outdoor play and learning, including within the 'messy' play areas. With many children continuing to take control of their learning, exploring the water and mud kitchens wearing protective clothing and footwear. This has been lovely to see as the children are allowing their imaginations to run wild while playing within these areas. We do, however, have a very limited supply of wellies and waterproof clothing, so if you are able to make any donations of these items we would be very grateful.



OPAL - a year later!

We can't believe that it has now been over a year since we adopted the OPAL approach to play and learning! Our playtimes have been revolutionised with children taking ownership of their learning and using their imaginations to play games with different resources that have been generously donated, enabling our pupils to become better at sharing and directing their own play.

Play Assemblies and The Golden Welly Award:

Although we have been following the OPAL approach for more than a year now, we are still taking the opportunity to introduce new equipment to the children using our Play Assemblies. Within these, we have been able to talk through why sharing of equipment is important, how accidents and breakages are going to happen sometimes but how equipment needs to be treated with care and respect to hopefully prevent unnecessary damage. Within our most recent OPAL assembly, Mrs Spicer awarded the Golden Welly awards to Brodie (JS), Riley (JS) and Eric (BC) for their kind, respectful and helpful behaviours while playing with and putting away the OPAL equipment.





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How could you help?

Thank-you so much to the parents who have very kindly donated equipment to this project already, both the staff and students are very grateful for your generosity.

We are still looking for more resources so that we can continue to build this project and replenish some of the items that have been used or accidentally damaged while the children have been enjoying their playtimes.

If you feel that you are able to help in sourcing any of the loose part items below, or feel that you could support us with larger donations such as outdoor storage such as sheds, then please let us know.



Keep an eye out for our next newsletter where we will be giving you a sneak peek to how our playtimes are going and what exciting items are arriving next!