



OPAL NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 2025 EDITION



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OPAL ACCREDITATION

On 19th March, Roby Park proudly completed its final OPAL audit—and not only did we achieve Platinum Status, we scored a perfect 100% in every category!

The audit praised our school for delivering an outstanding and exemplary implementation of the OPAL programme. From strategic leadership to daily practice, the OPAL ethos is embedded across every level of our provision, creating a rich, inclusive, and deeply child-centred play culture that stands as a national model of excellence.

Key highlights from the report include:

- **Leadership & Vision:** OPAL is a strategic priority, driven by a passionate team including our Headteacher, Curricula Lead for Play, Play Coordinator, Governor and Parent Play Champions, Site Manager, and dedicated Play Team.
- **Empowered Staff:** All supervising staff are trained, visible, and valued, with reflective practice embedded through regular CPD and team meetings.
- **Risk & Freedom:** Children are actively involved in managing risk through the RAPID framework, assemblies, and daily routines—creating a culture of trust, exploration, and independence.
- **Playtime Transformation:** Free-flow lunchtimes, relaxed routines, and skilled supervision have created a respectful and joyful atmosphere where play is uninterrupted and child-led.





Platinum Award 2025-2027

- **Incredible Play Spaces:** Rewilded natural areas, loose parts, tools, dens, music zones, and performance spaces offer endless opportunities for creativity, connection, and adventure.
- **Wholehearted Commitment:** From sustainability planning to family engagement, every aspect of our provision reflects a deep and sustained commitment to high-quality play.

This achievement is a testament to our belief that play is not just protected—it's celebrated. At Roby Park, children's right to play is realised in its fullest, most joyful expression.

Huge congratulations to everyone involved—and thank you for helping us build a school where play truly thrives.

You can download a full copy of our report from the OPAL section on our website by scanning the QR code below:





OPAL FILMING

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At the end of the Summer term, we were delighted to welcome a professional videographer to Roby Park to capture the magic of our play provision in action. The footage will form part of an OPAL case study, showcasing our Platinum-standard play to other OPAL schools and those considering joining the programme.

From tree swings to tractor tyres, dens to dressing-up zones, our children's joyful, imaginative, and adventurous play will soon be shared far and wide. We can't wait to show you the final film and celebrate the incredible play culture we've built together.



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Stay tuned—it's going to be something special!

2025-26 OPAL AFTERNOON PLAY DATES



Our Parent Play Afternoons are a much-loved opportunity for families to experience the joy of play alongside their children. Whether it's building dens, swinging from tyres, or getting stuck into the mud kitchen, these sessions offer a wonderful window into our rich and adventurous play culture.

Dates for our OPAL parent play afternoons for the upcoming academic year are:

25th September 2025
13th November 2025

12th February 2026

19th March 2026

21st May 2026

18th June 2026

We're proud to offer this experience every half term, come rain or shine—because at Roby Park, play doesn't stop for the weather!

Sessions run from 1.30–2.45pm, and we'd love to see as many of you as possible joining in the fun.

Thank you for your continued support in making play a celebrated part of our school life. We can't wait to welcome you!



SUCCESSFUL FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR OPAL

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Thanks to generous funding from Tesco, we've been awarded £500 to enhance our outdoor play provision. We've used the grant to purchase waterproof trousers and jackets—perfect for messy, marvellous fun in our mud kitchen!



These new additions mean our children can dive into muddy adventures without a second thought, and better still, the waterproof gear can be used across our play spaces. Rain or shine, our pupils can now access their chosen play in comfort and confidence. A huge thank you to Tesco for helping us champion all-weather play and keep the joy flowing, whatever the forecast!



Thanks to generous funding from Cash4Kids, we've been able to extend our monkey bars into a full circuit—adding a thrilling new challenge to our outdoor play offer!

Children have absolutely loved testing their strength, balance, and bravery as they swing, climb, and conquer the new layout. It's been fantastic to see their confidence grow and their smiles stretch even wider.

A huge thank you to Cash4Kids for helping us enrich our play provision and keep adventure at the heart of every break time! And thank you to Jo & Mike from Littlefoot who bring our ideas to life!

