

OPAL NEWSLETTER

WHAT HAVE WE ADDED?

The children have been excited for the spring term and the improved weather. This always attracts more children onto the field to explore, play, and make the most of our outdoor spaces. By popular demand, we have added even more pallets to our construction area and introduced new hay bales to increase the challenge of our obstacle courses. These resources provide endless opportunities for imaginative and creative play, with children designing, building, and adapting their own structures and play scenarios. The construction area encourages teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking as children collaborate on projects and bring their ideas to life. Meanwhile, the hay bale obstacles support the development of gross motor skills by promoting climbing, balancing, jumping, lifting, and coordination.



2 WHAT'S HAPPENING?

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs that complement our OPAL programme and help enrich children's experiences beyond the classroom. As part of this, Mr Lyon has worked with Reception children during their gardening club to develop and maintain the natural areas within our playground and field. The children take great pride in caring for these spaces and thoroughly enjoy the hands-on activities involved. Their work helps create attractive, engaging environments that support imaginative, creative, and active play, enhancing the overall quality of playtimes and providing more varied opportunities for exploration, social interaction, and enjoyment.



3

WHAT CHILDREN SAID

Extra OPAL play is a very popular reward on our Inclusive Attendance Classopoly board. This term, both Year 2, 5 and 6 chose additional OPAL play as their reward, with pupils commenting that extra OPAL play is always a bonus. During their reward time, children had great fun working together to design and build some amazing dens. The session encouraged physical activity and fun, while giving pupils additional opportunities to enjoy high-quality outdoor play and make the most of the exciting play experiences available through our OPAL programme.



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WHAT PARENTS SAID

We were fortunate enough to invite parents and carers to join us for an OPAL Play Afternoon, which was enjoyed by all. It was wonderful to see children and adults playing together, sharing experiences, and exploring the wide range of play opportunities available across our school grounds. The afternoon highlighted the value of OPAL in providing inclusive, engaging, and child-led play experiences that appeal to all ages.



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