OPAL NEWSLETTER

TERM 1
AUTUMN
2026

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a fantastic term enjoying all our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) resources! It has been wonderful to see the children making the most of our play opportunities, using their imaginations, developing friendships and embracing new challenges.

Music, dancing and singing!

Our music stage continues to be a popular lunchtime destination, with the children really appreciating the new decking and spending time dancing and singing together. It is lovely to see this area being used so enthusiastically and creatively.

Sharing our OPAL journey

This term, we were delighted to welcome visitors from another school in Kent who are preparing to introduce OPAL. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our journey and showcase our lunchtime provision in action. The children warmly welcomed our visitors and were very happy to share their opinions and experiences of OPAL, their favourite resources and the games they enjoy playing.

We were incredibly proud of the children and the way they represented our school! The visitors were extremely impressed with the children's play and the opportunities available to them, and we received some lovely feedback. We wish them luck for their own OPAL journey.

New resources and improvements

We are delighted that our new OPAL scooter shelter has been installed this term. A huge thank you to Mr Hyder and one of our parents for giving up their time to build it. We really appreciate any parent support and time given to help with school projects.

The children continue to share fantastic ideas for improving our OPAL provision, and we have been busy putting their suggestions into action. Following their feedback, we have introduced clipboards for drawing and writing, along with a new sand table. We are also in the process of creating a new Lego area with storage, and have introduced a new storage area for all the sports equipment we use when playing on the school field.

It has been wonderful to see our OPAL Pupil Play Leaders taking such responsibility for looking after our resources and sharing so many thoughtful ideas. Their enthusiasm and commitment to this important role, is helping us to make positive changes and continually improve our lunchtime provision.



The 8-lap challenge

The children continue to enjoy taking on the challenge of completing eight laps of the school sports track – an impressive 2km walk or run! It is fantastic to see so many children getting involved, challenging themselves and enjoying being active.

Resources needed – thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has supported our ongoing requests for resources. Your donations make such a difference and help us to provide the children with exciting, creative and varied play opportunities.

As we look ahead to Term 2, we would particularly welcome donations of:

- Lego – we are still looking for more to help us develop our new Lego area.
- Dressing-up clothes and accessories – including bags, wigs and shoes.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated and will help us continue to develop our OPAL provision in response to the children's interests and ideas.

Thank you again for your continued support and for helping us make OPAL such a wonderful part of school life. We look forward to another exciting term of outdoor play, creativity and adventure!







Kind regards,

The OPAL Play Team