



Outdoor Play and Learning Newsletter March 2022



Amazing play, everyday, for every child

Since starting the OPAL programme, it has definitely been a journey! We started in 2020 and suddenly had Covid to battle with. The seasons have given us many ups and downs, as well as a few storms along the way. Although it has not been easy, we have seen so many benefits of improving play at West Park Academy and believe now, it is more important than ever.

Here are some of our achievements so far...

- We have welly racks and salopettes for most children meaning wet playtimes have reduced dramatically and children are encouraged to be outdoors in all weather. We now celebrate mud!
- We have a great wheel area so children can enjoy using scooters, skateboards and bikes.
- Tyres and pallets offer inspire creativity, support teamwork and improve gross motor skills.
- The children love our new pallet structures in the Wilderness area and have lots of fun making dens using the sticks, pallets, planks and more!

OPAL is an award-winning, mentor supported school improvement programme that addresses all the areas that schools must plan for if they want to strategically and sustainably improve the quality of their play opportunities. OPAL is the only programme of its kind that has been independently proven to sustainably improve the quality of play in British primary schools.

Development

The amazing play at OPAL schools supports the development of many skills essential in modern education

Play Patterns

Your children need to develop their play literacy and improve self-regulation through their own agency. When they do this they will become more competent and independent

Creative Spaces

We help you plan how to get the most play-value for your money from your environment

Attitudes

Great play at a school involves everyone. We will help transform your whole school culture around play

Behaviour

We help meet children's fundamental needs and so OPAL schools have many more children who are happy and engaged and far fewer problems with behaviour



What we need

In order to sustain and improve our fantastic play experiences, we need to replenish resources regularly.

We are currently asking for donations of small world toys which can help your child's imagination to grow. E.g. dolls house, dinosaurs, figures, cars, dolls etc.

If you have any, please bring to the office.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Pattison 😊